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## Turkey, Bulgaria relations warming

By Fathima Ahmed  
Arab Times staff

THE Turkish-Bulgarian talks in Kuwait have paved the way for normalisation of ties between the two countries, according to diplomatic sources.

There is a distinct possibility that Turkish-Bulgarian ties, frozen since 1984, may return to normal and both countries are "looking forward to reactivating co-operation in all spheres," sources said.

The status of ethnic Turkish Muslims in Bulgaria has been the barometer of ties between the two countries. Now that Bulgaria has shown a "political will" to make amends, and has granted basic human rights to the ethnic Turks, there seems to be optimism about improving future relations at next month's Open Skies Conference in Ottawa from Feb 12 to 15. Both sides are expected to continue the dialogue in Ankara at a future date at a joint-committee meeting.

The second-round of one-day talks between the two countries were held in a "cordial atmosphere." Although diplomats felt that the ethnic Turk issue cannot be "resolved" in a day, or at a couple of meetings, they said that they were optimistic due to the "positive and constructive" outcome of the talks in Kuwait.

Turkey and Bulgaria, in a joint-communique read at the conclusion of yesterday's meeting, have agreed to hold further talks "to make a thorough assessment" and improve relations on "sound and mutually beneficial basis."

Agencies add: Bulgaria has suggested to Turkey that they make a joint declaration on human rights to overcome years of acrimony over the treatment of Bulgaria's Turkish minority.

Turkey has not committed itself to the idea but, following the downfall of Bulgaria's hard-line communist leadership, says Ankara and Sofia are finally speaking the same language on the ethnic issue.

"What I proposed was ... to establish a really new departure. We want to turn a page between Bulgaria and Turkey," Bulgarian Foreign Minister Bovko Dimitrov told a news conference.

A special parliamentary panel is investigating whether ousted communist leader Todor Zhivkov illegally stashed state funds in Swiss bank accounts.

## Quayle praises China decision

WASHINGTON, Jan 10, (Reuters): Vice President Dan Quayle said today that China's decision to lift martial law was a step forward for human rights and showed the wisdom of President George Bush's controversial policy of maintaining high-level contacts with Beijing.

"We view China's decision to lift martial law as a step forward. I believe that you are beginning to see dividends from the president's policy towards China," Quayle told reporters.

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## \$500m arms deal

Kuwait, Egypt to set up holding company

KUWAIT, Jan 10, (Agencies): A press report said here today that Kuwait will purchase an arms package worth \$500 million from Egypt during the visit of HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah. Kuwait and Egypt have also agreed to set up a \$500 million holding investment company.

The Kuwaiti daily said the package will include two "Amon" type air defence systems, 63-TPS radar system, armoured vehicles equipped with MD-2 and Milan bombers and Swingfire missiles.

The package will be thoroughly discussed during talks between the Kuwaiti delegation headed by Sheikh Saad and Egyptian officials led by the head of the Arab Industries Authority Ibrahim Al Orabi, said the paper quoting unidentified Egyptian military sources.

Meanwhile, Kuwaiti Ambassador to Egypt Abdelrazzak Al Kandari told another local newspaper that Kuwait will not participate in financing projects in the field of arms with Egypt.

He noted, however, that Kuwait prefers to purchase Egyptian-made arms and urged other Arab states to use Egyptian arms which have proved their fighting efficiency. Egypt and Kuwait have agreed to set up a \$500 million

holding company which will control joint investment, Egyptian Prime Minister Atef Sedki said.

Sedki, quoted by Egyptian newspapers today, said after talks with Sheikh Saad, Kuwait also agreed to take part in planned reclamation of 400,000 acres (162,000 hectares) of land.

The Egyptian prime minister was quoted as saying Kuwait would contribute \$200 million for the farming scheme, estimated to cost a billion pounds (\$380 million). No other details were immediately available.

Kuwait and Egypt have signed an agreement for bilateral co-operation in judicial fields.

The agreement was signed by Kuwait's Minister of Justice and Legal Affairs Dhan Abdulla Al Othman and his Egyptian counterpart Farouq Saif Al Nasr.

The agreement provides for mutual extradition of persons convicted with freedom-restricting punishments so as to be rehabilitated in their home countries out of the kindness of humanitarian reasons.

Sheikh Saad, on the third day of his visit to Egypt, today visited military plants of Abu Zaabal, near Cairo.

At the Menis plant Sheikh Saad was briefed by Egyptian State Minister of War Industries Jamal Al Sayed.



Sheikh Saad visiting the Panorama of October 6 war.



The Crown Prince cutting a cake during his visit to the Kuwait embassy in Cairo.



Algerian Abderrazak Taleb of Wattrelos, northern France, kneels in prayer behind his invention, a clock which calls the Muslim faithful to prayers five times a day. A replica of the Omar Mosque in Occupied Jerusalem, the clock is programmed by entering the longitude and latitude of the city, allowing Muslims to pray simultaneously with those in Holy Meekah. (Reuters wirephoto)

## Pakistan warned over Kashmir

SRINAGAR, Jan 10, (Agencies): India issued a warning today to Pakistan over its alleged support for pro-secessionist Muslims in strife-torn Kashmir, where at least two people died during a shootout between security forces and militants, official sources said.

The deaths brought to at least 19 the number of fatalities since the latest round of violent anti-India protests erupted on Monday in towns around the Kashmir region, over which both India and Pakistan claim sovereignty.

Troops and paramilitary and local police ordered to shoot rioters on sight enforced curfews in at least eight towns today, permitting a four-hour relaxation only in one area of Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir state, 400 miles (640 km) north of New Delhi.

Official sources said scores of residents, most of them women, defied the curfew in Srinagar's Shalimar locality and gathered in a street to hurl rocks and anti-Indian invectives at security personnel.

Armed militants in the crowd then opened fire at a paramilitary patrol, sparking a gunbattle. The sources said a civilian and a member of the paramilitary central reserve police force were killed in the brief firefight.

There were no immediate reports of new violence in any of the seven other towns in which curfews were in force.

The predominantly Muslim Kashmir region of the state is embroiled in an escalating campaign of protests, killings and bombings by underground extremist groups demanding secession from India. Some groups advocate union with the neighbouring Islamic republic of Pakistan, while others are calling for complete independence.

Scores of people have died since the agitation began about two years ago.

Army units moved into four Kashmir towns yesterday to try to halt Muslim separatist violence, police and witnesses said.

Chief Secretary Mousa Raza, the state's top civil servant, said a sub-inspector attached to the intelligence wing of the police was shot and killed by Muslim militants in Burewa, west of Srinagar. Another policeman was killed in neighbouring Rawalpora.

In Bandipur, 45 kilometres (28 miles) north of Srinagar, demonstrators set two government buildings on fire, he said.

Witnesses reached by telephone said two people were killed and several injured when police opened fire in Srinagar to disperse several hundred demonstrators.

Army units moved into the towns of Srinagar, Sopore, Anantnag and Bandipur, officials and witnesses said.

A powerful bomb planted by Sikh separatists exploded in the office of a senior Hindu police official in Punjab today, killing him and three others on the spot, police said.

The bomb had a timing device and was hidden in a wooden foot rest below the desk of senior superintendent of police Govind Ram, they said.

The blast occurred at Jalandhar, southeast of the Sikh holy city of Amritsar.

Jalandhar superintendent of police Suresh Arora said the blast killed Ram and three other policemen. At least 20 other people, mostly policemen, were injured. (See Page 2)

## Soviets to host Iraq-Iran talks

Tehran gives go-ahead

MOSCOW, Jan 10, (AP): Iran has given the go-ahead to resume stymied peace settlement talks with Iraq, and this time they will be mediated and hosted by the Soviet Union, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said today.

Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati sent a message to Moscow saying Iran was willing to resume the talks, which stalled this April in Geneva, Foreign Ministry spokesman Gennady I. Gerasimov said.

Iraq had already agreed to the Soviet proposal for trilateral talks, so "now it is possible to start the practical working-out of this question," Gerasimov told a Moscow briefing.

He said he had no details on when and where the talks would be held.

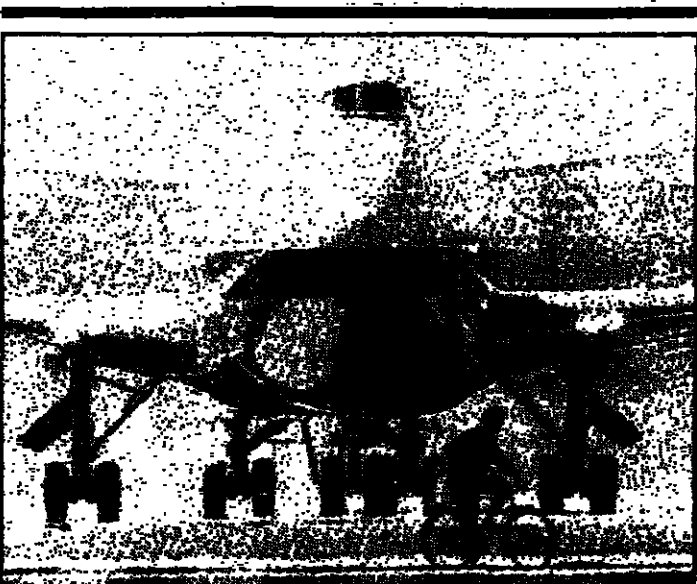
Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze, during an official visit to Iran in August, had offered the Soviet Union's help in mediating the deadlocked talks.

At the time, Tehran Radio quoted Shevardnadze as saying the Soviet Union was willing to exploit good relations with both Iraq and Iran in an effort to further the talks.

The Soviets have leverage with Baghdad as Iraq's main arms suppliers in the Gulf war, and Iraq and the Soviet Union are bound by a treaty of friendship and co-operation.

Tehran also has signed big gas deals with Moscow along with other trade agreements, reversing years of bad relations with the Soviet Union when it had been grouped with America as a "great satan."

No progress was reported at the last round of direct negotiations between Velayati and Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz, held in Geneva in April.



AN Air India airliner that was forced to divert to Karachi on Wednesday because of a bomb threat resumed its scheduled journey to New Delhi after an 11-hour delay when searchers found nothing.

"The plane and its cargo was thoroughly searched but no bomb was found," a spokeswoman for the Indian Consulate in Karachi said.

The Boeing 747 carrying 281 passengers and crew on a flight from Frankfurt to New Delhi and Bombay changed course after Indian officials in New Delhi told Pakistani air controllers they had received a bomb threat. Picture shows an airport worker cycles in front of a Boeing 747 as the plane taxis on the tarmac at Hong Kong's Kai Tak airport. (Reuters wirephoto)

## Moscow upgrades PLO ties

MOSCOW, Jan 10, (Reuters): The Kremlin announced today it would allow the PLO to upgrade its Moscow representation to an embassy, within hours of a meeting between Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze and Israeli Science Minister Ezer Weizman.

A Foreign Ministry statement said Moscow had "given its consent to the reorganisation of the mission of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) in Moscow as the embassy of the State of Palestine in the Soviet Union."

In return, the Soviet Union planned to appoint its ambassador to the PLO's effective government-in-exile, the Tunis-based Executive Committee, said the statement, carried by the official news agency Tass.

The decision was announced by the Soviet First Deputy Foreign Minister Yuli Vorontsov at a meeting today with the Arab ambassadors.

The move had been widely expected since November 1988 when the Soviet Union recognised the PLO proclamation of a Palestine state without specifying whether this amounted to full diplomatic recognition.

No reason was given for the precise timing of the announcement, but analysts suggested it was linked with today's meeting, believed to be the first high-level contact in the Soviet Union since Moscow severed ties with Israel in 1967.

**Weather**

COLD weather with moderate north-westerly wind may freshen at times.

State of sea: Moderate to rough

High water: 10.30 am, 1.11 pm

Low water: 6.33 am, 6.00 pm

Sunrise: 6.44 am

Sunset: 5.08 pm

Minimum temperatures recorded:

Kuwait: 13°C 55°F

Ahmedi: 13°C 55°F

Falaka: 16°C 61°F

Maximum temperatures recorded:

Kuwait: 33°C 91°F

Ahmedi: 33°C 91°F

Falaka: 35°C 95°F

Maximum temperatures expected:

Kuwait: 14°C 57°F

Ahmedi: 12°C 54°F

Falaka: 13°C 55°F

Maximum humidity recorded:

Kuwait: 73 per cent

Ahmedi: 63 per cent

Falaka: 53 per cent

## NEWSWATCH

**Aoun recruiting women:** Another male bastion in the war of the sexes falls this month in Lebanon: the armed forces of General Michel Aoun are recruiting women for combat roles.

Among units accepting women will be the military police and presidential guard. Women can also join the small air force and navy.

The leftist newspaper *As Safir* today quoted an unnamed financial source as saying Aoun's deposits in European and American banks are estimated at more than \$100 million. (Reuters)

**IRA leader charged with murder:** Danny Morrison, a leader of the IRA political wing and propaganda mastermind of its guerrilla cause, was charged today with conspiracy to murder.

The *Sinn Fein* publicity director, who conducted his own defence in court, was also charged with unlawful imprisonment and membership of the Irish Republican Army, the outlawed group battling to end British rule in Northern Ireland.

Four other men appeared in court on the same charges. (Reuters)

**Woman wins \$9 million suit:** More than \$9 million in damages has been awarded to a Texas woman by a federal court jury who found that Xerox Corp. discriminated against her because of her age.

The Dallas jury on Tuesday awarded Elizabeth Layman \$284,000 in actual damages and \$8.75 million in punitive damages, concluding that Xerox has fraudulently induced Ms. Layman to relocate to California and then refused to provide her a job.

Xerox said it will ask US district judge Sidney Fitzwater to overturn the verdict. If he refuses, it will appeal. (AP)

**Gorbachev indisposed:** Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev was ill over the Christmas period and "may even have entered hospital for a few days," a national British newspaper reported today.

The *Daily Telegraph* newspaper made the revelation in a front page story quoting a "senior Lithuanian communist party member".

The paper pointed out that a rumour, officially denied in Moscow late last month, said he had suffered back trouble.

It noted that some people thought he looked strained while delivering his pre-recorded New Year's eve television message to the nation. (KUNA)

**Obscene calls for Noriega:** Manuel E. Noriega has been receiving a lot of obscene phone calls lately, and he wants to make one thing perfectly clear: he's the wrong guy.

"I do not wear red underwear. I am not from Panama, I'm from Mexico," said Manuel Evaristo Noriega, 84, of Miami beach.

The Mexican Noriega has been receiving calls from people who apparently have confused him with Manuel Antonio Noriega, the deposed Panamanian dictator who reportedly is fond of red briefs. (UPI)

## President of Xerox France shot in hostage-taking

PARIS, Jan 10, (Agencies): A disgruntled former employee shot and critically wounded the head of Rank Xerox France yesterday after holding him and four other employees hostage at gunpoint for several hours, police said.

Oliver Groues, managing director of Xerox's French subsidiary, was reported in critical condition late yesterday after the other hostages were released unharmed and Daniel Vielle, a former sales employee, was taken into custody, police said.

Michelle Requin, substituting public prosecutor for Nanterre, said Vielle, 45, demanding restitution for his dismissal eight years ago, held the employees hostage with a sawed-off automatic hunting rifle.

Vielle, who was dismissed "for serious cause" from Rank Xerox, "had a real fixation against the company, blaming it for his divorce and his debts," said Requin.

Vielle, brandishing a gun, took the employees hostage after entering the top-floor executive suite of the company's headquarters in La Defense business district in Putaux on the western outskirts of Paris at about noon, officials said.

Witnesses told police that Vielle burst into the office of personnel director Bernard Rebell, forced him at gunpoint to Xerox's office and held the two men and three female employees hostage in two adjoining offices on the top floor of the 19-storey building.

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German men's trousers	BOULET	11.50	KD 8.200

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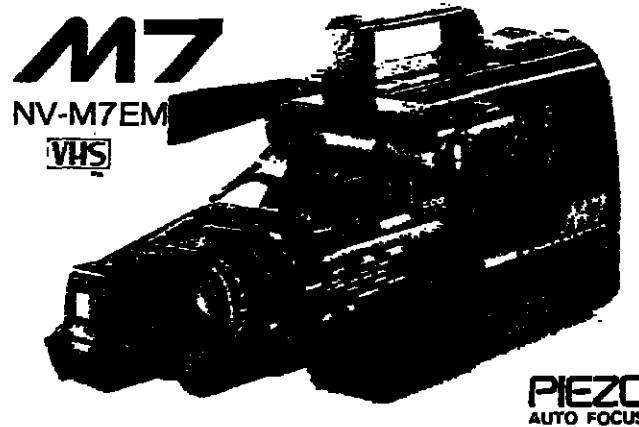
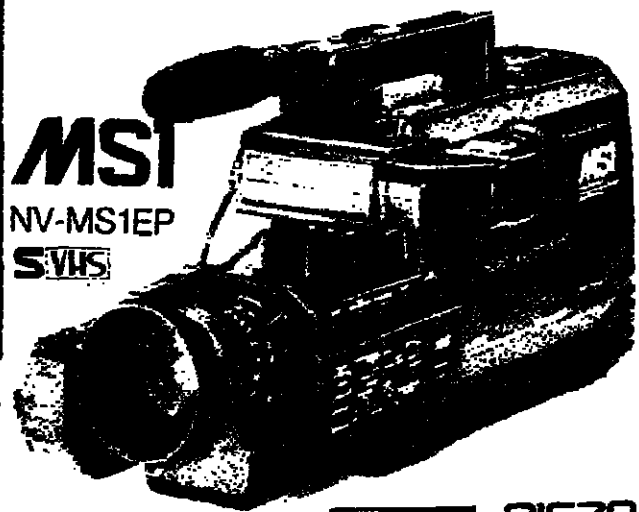
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## INTERNATIONAL

# Marcos aides charged with rebellion

MANILA, Jan 10, (UPI) Two former aides to late leader Ferdinand Marcos and three other people were charged with rebellion today in connection with last month's coup attempt against President Corason Aquino, officials said.

Rafael Recto, a Marcos attorney, and Marcos press officer Lito Gorospe were among five people accused of rebellion before the justice department, senior prosecutor Aurelio Trampe said. The others were air force Col. Eduardo (Red) Kapunan, busi-

nessman Jack Rodriguez and newspaper columnist Cecilio Arillo.

The charges filed by the National Bureau of Investigation named six witnesses who saw the five at the suburban government television network on Dec. 1, the first day of the coup attempt. Trampe said.

Kapunan led in the takeover of the television station at the start of the weeklong uprising, but was

unable to use the facilities after employees removed vital equipment, rendering the network inoperative.

Network manager Dodie Limacoco earlier said Recto and Gorospe were carrying tapes apparently containing rebel statements that were never used.

Trampe said at least 53 civilians have been charged with rebellion in connection with the uprising that left 119 people dead and more than 500 wounded. The coup attempt was the sixth and most

serious against Aquino.

Among those who have been charged were opposition Senator Juan Ponce Enrile and the Senate's military consultant, retired Brig. Gen. Felix Brawner.

An aide said Recto has not received a copy of the charges, which carry a penalty ranging from six months to 12 years imprisonment. However, Recto has denied involvement in the rebellion.

## Sikh bomb kills top cop

CHANDIGARH, India, Jan 10, (Reuters) A bomb killed Punjab's most controversial police officer today, hours before Indian Prime Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh was due to arrive in the state on a mission to end Sikh separatist violence.

Commandant Gobind Ram and at least three other policemen were blown up by a bomb planted in his own office in a heavily-guarded Punjab police complex at Jullundur.

"He (Ram) was very high on the hit-list of the Sikh extremists and we can only guess," a senior police source said when asked who was suspected of planting the bomb.

Sikh organisations, human rights groups and Indian politicians had accused Ram of torturing people held for interrogation over the campaign for an independent Sikh homeland in Punjab.

Ram, who was 44, was a Hindu excluded from his religion's caste hierarchy as a Harijan or untouchable. He was shifted to the high-security complex at Jullundur last September after protests by Sikhs.

Surjit Singh Barnala, a former chief minister of the state, told Reuters the complex was considered by far the safest place in Punjab.

Torture

Ram was moved there after followers of a Sikh high priest threatened to surround his office in the Bhatla area, accusing him of torturing two women, including a sister-in-law of the chief of the Babbar Khalsa.

The Babbar Khalsa is one of several extremist groups waging an eight-year-old campaign for a Sikh homeland they want to call Khalistan, land of the pure.

Police have blamed Babbar Khalsa for several previous bomb attacks on targeted individuals. V.P. Singh, whose National Front ousted Rajiv Gandhi's Congress Party from government in general elections last November, has given priority to ending the separatist violence. More than 2,000 people were killed in Punjab in 1989 alone.

Charges

The Ludhiana rally is his second attempt to win over more moderate Sikhs in Punjab, India's most prosperous agricultural state strategically located on the border with Pakistan.

A senior Punjab state government official told Reuters today that charges had been dropped against 1,500 people who had been detained during a three-year crackdown on the separatists on charges such as harbouring militants.

He said this left about 1,600 people detained in Punjab under anti-terrorist laws and another 3,000 released on bail and still facing charges.

But Punjab's most important Sikh political leader, Shri Singh Nanna, has said he will not attend Thursday's rally because of the presence of Congress leaders.

India to ditch ambassadors

NEW DELHI, Jan 10 (Kuna) The National Front government plans to transfer a number of heads of diplomatic missions abroad and also replace ambassadors of India in the United States and Britain, it was reported today.

Dr. Karan Singh, India's ambassador to Washington, and M.K. Rasgotra, High Commissioner to London, are likely to be replaced soon. They have been discreetly advised to send their resignation.

Dr. Karan Singh has served as minister in the late Indira Gandhi cabinet.

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Two Lithuanian girls carry a banner which asks for the freedom of Lithuania during a demonstration in central Vilnius. (Reuters wirephoto)

## Lithuanians prepare for Gorb

VILNIUS, USSR, Jan 10, (AP) Thousands of backers of Lithuanian independence ended "freedom" at a rally in Cathedral Square today, rehearsing their greeting for Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev on the eve of his visit.

Banners displayed among about 20,000 activists who rallied in the centre of Vilnius ranged from one polite welcome to more blunt calls for Gorbachev to go home — and take the Soviet Army with him.

"We didn't join the Soviet Union, you grabbed us," read one banner, referring to the Soviet Union's absorption of the Baltic republic in 1940. Gorbachev is expected to arrive tomorrow for three days of meetings with factory workers, collective farmers, ethnic minorities and Communist Party activists in a bid to reverse the Lithuanian Communist Party's decision last month to split from the national party and support independence for the republic.

The Soviet leader will risk his personal prestige in the attempt to cool one of his country's most serious ethnic disputes.

He has consistently and sharply criticised Lithuanian communist leaders for the move for independence, and convened an emergency session of the national party central committee last month to discuss the issue.

But leaders of Sajudis, the Lithuanian People's Front Political Movement, hope to draw one million people to Vilnius, the capital, tomorrow to show Gorbachev the extent of support for independence.

The Soviet leader is treating the Communist Party split as a critical setback in his reform programme. He sent a crew of top-level national party officials led by Kremlin ideology chief Vadim A. Medvedev to lobby party members in preparation for his visit.

Gorbachev last visited one of the Baltic republics in February 1987, when he travelled to Riga, Latvia. Estonia was the third republic absorbed by the Soviet Union in a secret pact with Nazi Germany.

## Quake jolts northeast India, Bangladesh

NEW DELHI, Jan 10, (AP) An earthquake measuring 5.4 on the Richter scale shook northeastern India and Bangladesh early today, but there were no immediate reports of major damage.

In Bangladesh's capital, Dhaka, four students were injured when they jumped from the third floor of their dormitory at Dhaka University. Professor Nuruddin Ahmed said.

However, Bangladesh officials said there were no reports of serious damage from the quake which also was felt in the southeastern port city of Chittagong.

The quake also was felt in India's far northeastern states, which wrap around Bangladesh and the border of northwestern Burma. Indian news agencies reported.

United News of India said electricity was disrupted in Agartala, capital of Tripura state, which is wedged between Bangladesh and Burma.

Press Trust of India said people rushed out of doors in the neighbouring state of Assam when they were awakened by rattling doors and windows.

Neither news agency reported serious damage. The seismology office at the Indian government's department of meteorology in New Delhi said the quake occurred at 12:22 am Wednesday (1855 GMT Tuesday).

The epicentre of the quake was near the border of Burma and the Indian state of Manipur, according to a seismology staffer who spoke on condition of anonymity.

## Reviving Champs Elysees

PARIS, Jan 10, (Reuters) The city of Paris today announced a plan to revive the Champs Elysees, the sagging symbol of elegance and prestige dear to French hearts.

"People tell us the Champs Elysees is possibly the world's most beautiful promenade," said Paris Mayor Jacques Chirac. "It is deteriorating. We must safeguard and restore it."

Under a vast public work scheme still to be finalised, but expected to last up to five years, street hawkers are to be banned and pavements resurfaced and widened.

Thronged by aristocratic carriages last century and still a hallmark of high Parisian fashion and refinement in the 1950s, the avenue running from the Arc de Triomphe to the Place de la Concorde now teems with rowdy teenagers and fast-food joints.

Shop-owners, who have been screaming for moves to boost the avenue's former up-market image, blame its fading grandeur on changing times but say a touch of the old elegance can survive.

Roland Pozzo di Borgo, the owner of two restaurants on the avenue and president of a Save-les-Champs Committee, said the chaos began in the 1960s, when new commuter trains dumped tens of thousands of suburbanites on the avenue.

"We have nothing against them, but with them come the trash, the dealers and street merchants bent on making a quick buck."

Owners of avenue storefronts welcomed Chirac's planned face-lift. Bookends, bins and bookstands are to be re-designed, lighting improved, the area named a protected site and a double row of plane trees planted along its 1.2 km (7.5 miles) from Place de la Concorde to the Arc de Triomphe.

## Radicals claim missile attacks

TOKYO, Jan 10, (AP) A group claimed responsibility today for a long-range missile attack on the residence of Emperor Akihito's brother in Tokyo and an imperial garden in Kyoto, police said.

A metropolitan police official said the claim by the Chukaku-Ha, (Middle Core Faction), was sent to newspapers.

The nationally circulated Asahi Shimbun said a statement it received today claimed the Chukaku-Ha had attacked the residence of Prince Hitachi.

## WWII stragglers come out 45 years in jungle

HAADYAI, Jan 10, (Reuters) Two Japanese World War II stragglers now in their 70s were plucked from their Thai jungle hideout today for an emotional reunion with relatives after 45 years in the wilderness.

Shigeo Hashimoto and Kiyoko Tanaka, who joined the banned Communist Party of Malaysia (CPM) at the end of the war rather than accept defeat, told a news conference they were now ready to go back to Japan.

"I am ready to return to Japan because it is a democracy," Hashimoto said, hours after an emotional reunion with his two younger brothers. Tanaka, who was met by his daughter and another relative, said he joined the CPM to make amends for injustices committed by Japan against Malaysia in the war.

"My CPM colleagues were saddened by my departure but I have to return to Japan where I will try to do something to promote peace and prevent wars in this world."

The two decided to come out of the jungle only after the party agreed last December to end its armed struggle. Clean-shaven and wearing crisp, white shirts and blue trousers, they were put in wheelchairs and taken to a military hospital for a check-up on arrival in this southern Thai town after a one-hour flight from Yala province bordering Malaysia.

Major-General Kitti Rattanaschaya, deputy commander of Thailand's 4th Army region, described the men as heroes when he met them at Haadyai airport.

"Their bravery is unquestionable. How can anyone spend 45 years in the jungle if he is not brave," he told reporters.

Photographers took pictures of the two men who sat quietly on a couch surrounded by Hashimoto's two brothers, Tanaka's daughter and another relative.

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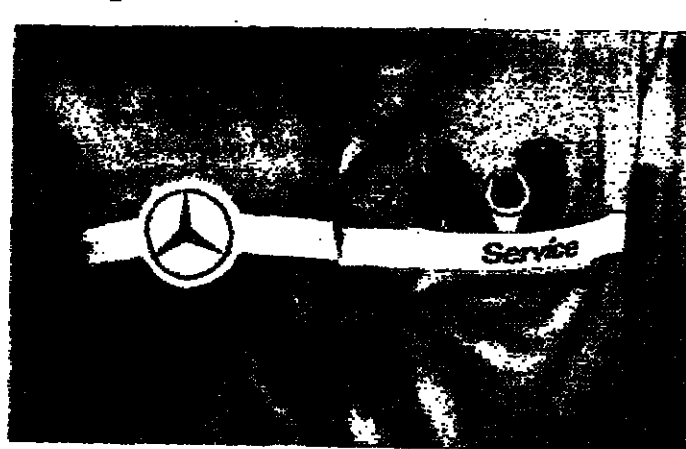
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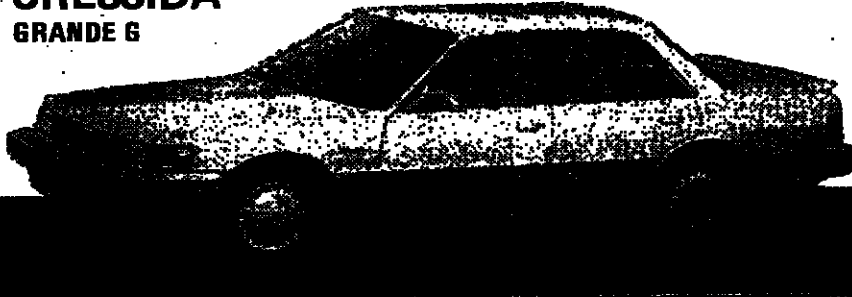
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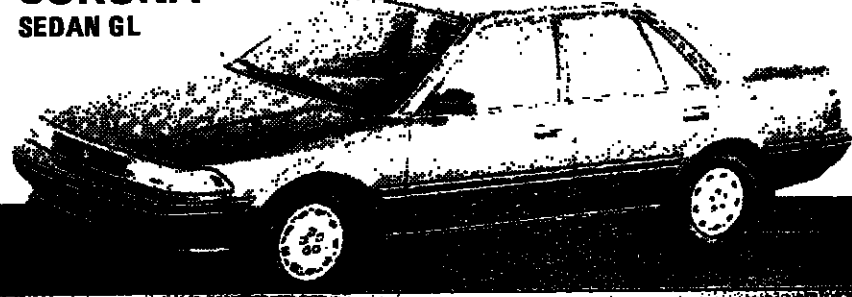


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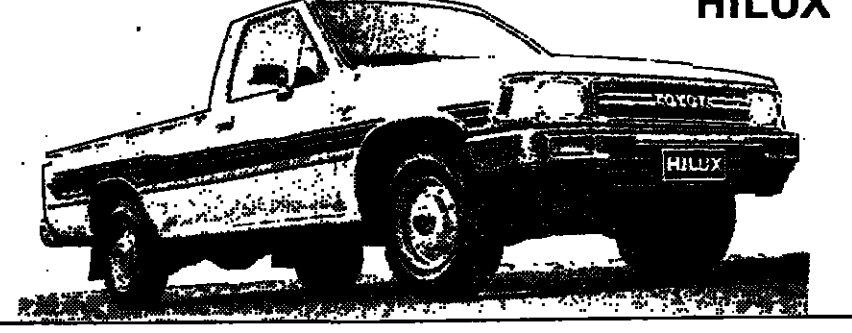
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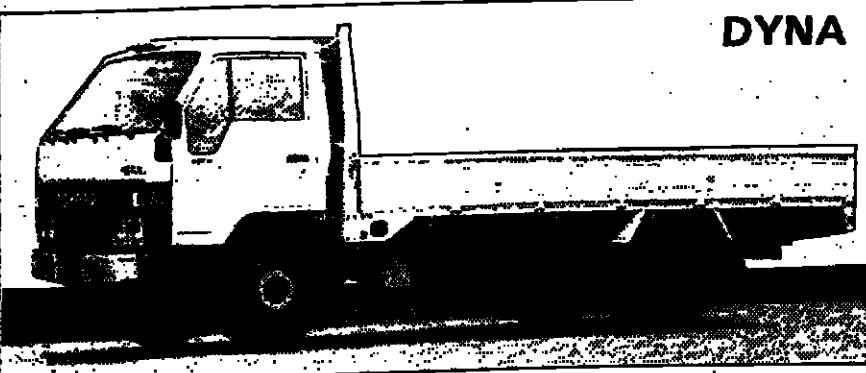
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# World News Roundup

## After 70 years Mother and son united

PISTOIA, Italy, Jan 10, (Reuters): An Italian woman of 91 who gave up her son for adoption in 1916 was reunited with him yesterday after she discovered that he lived down the road.

"I wanted to find my son before I die," Assunta Rabuzzi, from the town of Lardano in central Italy, told reporters.

Rabuzzi, who has other children, had no news of her son Maggiorino since he was adopted at birth but found out after a long search that he lived less than 25 km away.

Maggiorino, 74, had a second surprise at yesterday's reunion. He recognised a man introduced as his brother because they had been in adjacent beds at a local hospital a few years ago.



Morris (right) enters the Federal Building in Syracuse for the first day of court. He is accused of creating a computer worm that crippled military and college computers linked to a nationwide network. (Reuters wirephoto)

## Tampering trial

## Computer worm source traced

SYRACUSE, New York, Jan 10, (UPI): A Cornell University computer expert said it took him four days to trace to its source the "worm" programme federal prosecutors contend a bright hacker used to "assault" a network of computers across the United States.

On the first day of the computer-tampering trial of Robert Morris Jr., expert witness Dean Kraft testified yesterday he found "a cryptic, compressed" version of the programme that crippled some 6,000 computers nationwide on Nov 2, 1988.

Kraft, testifying before about 50 reporters and spectators in the federal courtroom, said he discovered the rogue programme planted by the former Cornell graduate student after four days of study and sifting through records.

The testimony by Kraft, director of the computer facilities at Cornell, seemed to bolster accusations federal prosecutors Mark Rasch made in opening statements that Morris launched a "full-scale assault" on military and research computer networks with a programme purposely made "hard to defeat."

The government is attempting to prove that Morris, 25, slowed operations of about 6,000 computers by planting a "worm" that infiltrated strategic computer networks.

"There was a full-scale assault on the computers throughout the United States launched by the defendant. This was a deliberate effort," Rasch said.

Defence attorney Thomas Guidoboni said he would show the "worm" was merely an experiment gone awry.

## America

**King day to be marked:** Bells in 144 countries and all 50 US states will ring out Monday to honour Martin Luther King Jr. on what would have been the slain civil rights leader's 61st birthday.

For the first time, the day will be celebrated on a large scale in white-ruled South Africa, pro-democracy demonstrations around the world last year also have added impetus to the holiday by mirroring King's tactics and philosophy.

**League seeks Marshall Plan:** An urban Marshall Plan and investment bank is needed to close the economic gap between white and black citizens and to ensure the nation's competitiveness, a leading civil rights group said Tuesday in Washington.

The call came as the national urban league released its 15th annual report, "the state of black America."

## Blackjack

## Casinos don't shuffle enough

ATLANTIC CITY, New Jersey, Jan 10, (AP): A new study indicates that casinos don't shuffle their cards enough to baffling blackjack experts, but players and officials in this casino city say don't bet on it.

When a deck is shuffled, it retains fragments of its previous configuration. That can be important in blackjack, a game which attracts card-counters — players with copious memories and the lightning-quick ability to calculate probabilities.

If a card-counter senses a pattern repeating itself, he'll make a huge wager. Blackjack has lower odds in favour of the house than most other casino games, and over the course of a few hours' play card-counters often can beat the house.

The study says that a single deck must be shuffled seven times before the ghosts of the previous configuration disappear and that six decks must be shuffled 12 times; most casinos use eight decks, but shuffle them only twice.

But more shuffling means less betting time, and casino officials said that would have a greater effect on their profit than a few card-counters.

**Blacks heading south:** The percentage of American blacks living in the south is growing for the first time in more than a century, according to a census bureau study in Washington.

After decades of moving north and west in search and more opportunity away from segregated states, blacks are heading back south. The region has seen a significant growth in jobs in recent years, population experts said, and it has opened up considerably in the wake of civil rights laws. (AP)

**Bush voices outrage:** President George Bush vowed on Tuesday to battle racism and said he was outraged by a series of bombings, hate mail and threats against civil rights organisations.

"When we hear of bombings, obscene phone calls, hate mail — each one of us must speak out. And there is no place for the baggage of bigotry in the United States of America," Bush said at a ceremony honouring the assassinated civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. (Reuters).

**Allow Bible on school grounds:** The Justice Department urged the supreme court Tuesday to allow student Bible and prayer groups to meet on public school grounds, arguing that such a ruling would preserve the country's religious freedom.

However, a lawyer for school officials in Omaha, Nebraska, whose refusal to approve a Bible-reading club led to the case, said education administrators must have the authority to make such decisions. (AP)

**Court to hear Minnesota case:** The US Supreme Court on Monday agreed to decide whether governors may withhold state national guard units from peacetime training ordered by the federal Minnesota who opposed Central American training missions for the state's national guard troops.

The justices last April rejected a similar appeal officials in the state of Massachusetts. (AP)

**Gallery solves Bellini mystery:** After four years of work, the national gallery of art said Tuesday it has solved a major art mystery by discovering that an obscure Italian painter was responsible for mysterious alterations in Giovanni Bellini's masterpiece "The Feast of The Gods".

David Bull, the gallery's chief of painting conservation, said an exhaustive laboratory analysis shows that Bellini's 475-year-old work was repainted not only by his former pupil Titian, but by Dosso Dossi, court painter to Duke Alfonso D'Este of Ferrara. (AP)

**Organisers hopping mad:** An important has spawned a controversy by entering giant frogs in the annual frog jump jubilee, making some people hopping mad because the jumbo jumpers can stretch three feet (a metre) and weigh up to 15 pounds (6.8 kilos).

Organisers say Andy J. Koffman, 40, has created a "superfrog crisis" with his bid to enter 10 oversized amphibians from Africa in the whimsical competition started by Mark Twain's story, "The Celebrated Jumping Frog of Calaveras County." (AP)

**Rare Papal bust may go boom:** Christie's will auction a rare bust of Pope Gregory XV sculpted in 1621 and estimated to bring more than \$7 million, officials at the auction house said Tuesday.

The bust, by Gianlorenzo Bernini, was scheduled to go on the block Wednesday about noon as part of a 238-lot auction at Christie's Manhattan office. Christie's spokeswoman Susan Britman said. (UPI)

**Disneyland planning expansion:** A bigger, flashier Disneyland — possibly including an "Indiana Jones" stunt attraction and a 1930s style Hollywood movie lot — are on the drawing boards, Disney officials said.

Officials are keeping a tight lid on their plans, reportedly the most ambitious since the park's opening in 1955, until Friday. That's when Disney chairman Michael Eisner is scheduled to make an announcement. (AP)

**Satellite deployed:** Columbia's astronauts smoothly put a navy communications satellite into orbit yesterday and sped on to a rendezvous with a science laboratory they want to pluck from space before it falls to earth.

"We had a good deploy... it looked real great," reported mission specialist David Low as the 15,200-pound (6,894 kg) Syncom satellite slipped out of its berth and spun away, leaving the cargo bay empty and ready to receive the science package on Friday.

"We copy. Congratulations," NASA's mission control replied.

Forty-five minutes after release, an onboard motor fired to propel the satellite toward its permanent working post 22,300 miles (35,900 km) above the Pacific. (AP)

**13-year-old girl sentenced:** A 13-year-old girl convicted of soliciting the murder of her father was sentenced to 15 years to life.

Michelle Say was turned over to the California youth authority after Tuesday's sentencing. She was accused of letting two former boyfriends into her Manteca home before she went to her seventh grade class the morning of her father's murder last March. (AP)

**4 killed in copter crash:** Four soldiers have been killed in the crash of an army UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter during desert exercises.

The helicopter crashed Tuesday afternoon about 14 miles (23 kilometres) east of the main post of the sprawling Mojave Desert base, said Capt Gary Cleland. (AP)



## Cult killers

Alice, Damon and Jeffery Lundgren, accused in the religious cult slaying of a Kirtland, Ohio, family of five, appear in San Diego Municipal Court for arraignment. (Reuters wirephoto)

## Medical file

## Tumour

**Abnormal growth:** A 7-year-old Soviet boy who is 6 feet (1.8 m) tall and nearly 200 pounds (90 kgs) underwent surgery at the Mayo Clinic Tuesday to remove a pituitary gland tumour responsible for his abnormal growth.

Surgeons spent three hours removing the tumour, which was about two-thirds the size of a racquet ball, from Igor Ladan's head. The tumour was pressing on his brain and resulted in an overproduction of growth hormone, causing his phenomenal stature.

"When I spoke to the surgeons," they said there were no surprises and things are going as planned," Mayo spokesman Chris Gade said. "They told me the first 24 hours kind of determine some things for them."

Mayo officials said the boy seems to have tolerated the surgery very well and was doing well early in the recovery period at the Mayo's Saint Mary's Hospital. (UPI)

## Lifestyle

**Lifestyles, disease linked:** Non-communicable diseases, caused by the nature of lifestyles, are responsible for 70 to 80 per cent of deaths in the developed countries and about 50 per cent of those in the developing countries, according to the World Health Organisation (WHO).

Basically 'man-induced', the non-communicable diseases are the result of choice of lifestyles — notably by too much fatty foods, salt, and alcohol, by tobacco, lack of exercise and by polluted air.

Lifestyles are no longer purely conditioned by climate or by culture, according to Dr Evgenii Chigan, director of WHO's division of non-communicable diseases and health technology.

"They are influenced by newspapers, magazines, radio, films and television. Lifestyles are initiated as fast as the written and electronic media transmit ideas from country to country," he said.

Improper diet alone carries the risk of stroke, heart disease, hypertension, colorectal, and stomach cancers, diabetes, osteoporosis (a bone disease), malnutrition, obesity and gastric ulcers. (Kuna)

## Fat

**Rice bran lowers cholesterol:** Rice bran appears to be as effective as oat bran in lowering levels of "bad" cholesterol, researchers reported Tuesday.

In a 10-week study of 11 adults funded by various rice companies, Louisiana State University researchers said they found diets rich in rice bran lowered levels of low density lipoprotein — the so-called "bad" cholesterol — by 7 per cent.

"This is the first human study (of rice bran) with a strictly controlled dietary intake," said Maren Hegsted, a nutritionist who led the study. "We knew exactly what the participants ate so that we could isolate whether rice bran effectively lowers cholesterol."

The subjects, ages 20 to 57, had initial cholesterol levels of 199 to 252, from below-normal to above-normal levels. High cholesterol levels are thought by many doctors to increase the risk of heart disease. (UPI)

## Typhoid

**Swiss oral vaccine approved:** The Food and Drug Administration has approved an oral typhoid vaccine with fewer side effects than the injected vaccines that are currently available, officials said Tuesday.

"This vaccine will be important to tourists, business people and the military travelling to remote, less-developed areas where sanitation is poor," said Louis Sullivan, secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services, parent agency of the FDA.

The vaccine was developed and is made by the Swiss Serum and Vaccine Institute in Berne, Switzerland, Berna Products Corp. of Coral Gables, Florida, will distribute the vaccine as vivitiff berna vaccine.

Typhoid fever is rare in the United States. About 400 to 500 cases are reported annually, and in the majority of them the infection was contracted in other countries, the FDA said.

The disease is caused by a bacterial organism called salmonella typhi, which is spread through contaminated food and water. Infection is marked by prolonged fever, headache and malaise. About 10 per cent of untreated cases and less than 1 per cent of treated cases are fatal, the FDA said. (AP)

## Transplant

**Heart-liver recipient in hospital:** The world's first recipient of a heart-liver transplant, Stormie Jones, was in serious condition Tuesday at children's hospital of Pittsburgh where she was undergoing tests, a spokeswoman said.

The 12-year-old was admitted three days ago, said Margy Buczynski. The spokeswoman said doctors were awaiting results of a liver biopsy.

Buczynski would not give the nature of the girl's ailment but said she was not confined to bed. The White Settlement, Texas, girl has been treated on and off over the past six years for mild episodes of organ rejection.

Stormie received a new heart and liver at children's hospital in 1984.



## Soviets celebrate

Soviet models celebrate the newest issue of Playboy featuring the women of Russia during a reception in Moscow. (Reuters wirephoto)

## Europe

**Markov widow seeks clues:** The widow of Georgi Markov, the Bulgarian emigre who is believed to have been murdered in Britain by a poisoned umbrella, has gone to Bulgaria seeking more information on the case.

The Foreign Office said Tuesday that embassy staff in Sofia had been instructed to offer full co-operation to Annabel Markov during her visit on Wednesday and Thursday.

Investigators concluded that Markov, a broadcaster for the British Broadcasting Corporation's Bulgarian service, was killed by poison injected through an umbrella tip as he was waiting for a bus on Sept. 29, 1978. Before he fell into a coma, Markov told friends he had been jabbed from behind. (AP)

**Stolen Matisse works found:** Police pulled over a man for a routine check and discovered eight stolen works by Matisse valued at 75 million francs (\$12.5 million) rolled up in the back seat of his car, officials said in Nice, France.

Francis Cochet, 24, was held for questioning in the theft of the works — five oil paintings, two drawings and one engraving — that were discovered missing on Dec 29, said police sources, who spoke on condition they not be identified. (AP)

**Gunner shoot dead:** Two gunmen shot to death a member of the Ulster Defence Regiment militia Tuesday as he stood behind the counter of his shoe shop in Castlederg.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the shooting in Castlederg, 70 miles (110 kilometres) west of Belfast, but police said they believed it was the work of the Irish Republican Army.

Police said the victim, Oliver Kilpatrick 32, had been a part-time member of the regiment since 1975. (AP)

**Commons sounds like a jungle:** British television viewers on Tuesday saw the worst row in the House of Commons since cameras were allowed into the venerable chamber last November.

Bejeamed speaker Bernard Weatherill, who oversees the so-called mother of parliaments, shouted angrily: "This place sounds like a jungle."

Until November, proceedings had been restricted to radio, complete with the noise of politicians haranguing each other and the speaker shouting "order, order" above the din. (Reuters)

**UK rejects calls:** The Ministry of Defence rejected opposition Labour Party demands Tuesday to outlaw the peacetime use of Royal Navy Lasers, reportedly capable of blinding enemy pilots.

Labour's Martin O'Neill called on the government to follow the example of the United States and Soviet Union by signing an agreement to prohibit the Lasers in peacetime exercises. (AP)

**UK post never fails:** A letter from Norway to Britain with oil — the family name on the envelope was correctly delivered in an English village six days later, the recipient said Tuesday.

"We are just full of admiration for the post office but we can't imagine how they managed it," said Marit Torkildsen of Great Baddow near Chelmsford, Essex, 30 miles (48 kilometres) east of London.

She said an elderly friend wrote "Family Torkildsen" on the envelope and posted it on Dec 14 from Rjukan in the Telemark district of southern Norway. It was delivered Dec 20, but the story has only just emerged in the local Essex Chronicle weekly. (AP)

**Portuguese PM in Washington:** Portuguese Prime Minister Anibal Cavaco Silva flew Wednesday to Washington for an official two-day visit including talks with President George Bush, diplomatic sources said.

"At a moment of profound transformations in Europe, we want the United States to understand that Portugal is its most reliable European ally," said a senior diplomat asking to remain unnamed. (UPI)

**Vessel evacuated in storm:** Nine helicopters, co-ordinated by the Royal Air Force, evacuated 300 crew members from their North Sea accommodation vessel Tuesday after two of its eight anchor cables broke in a storm.

Owners Shell UK Ltd. said 75 crew were staying on board the safe Gothia moored beside the company's Brent Charlie platform 130 miles (210 kilometres) northeast of the Shetland Islands. (AP)

**Austria ban continues:** Austria's environmentally motivated night driving ban for heavy trucks on transit routes will continue, it was announced in Vienna today after the Austrian, West German and Italian transport ministers met in Frankfurt on Tuesday.

Italy and West Germany also did not move from their retaliatory measures against Austrian trucks.

European Economic Community (EEC) officials, who also took part, announced

## Woman anguished

## Rabbit meat turns "doggy"

LONDON, Jan 10, (Reuters): A British housewife told a court yesterday how she broke down in tears when she discovered the meat she had been defrosting for a family meal turned out to be a small dog.

Anita Ganley called health inspectors in the central English city of Birmingham when the headless carcass she had bought as rabbit from a local butcher let off a strong smell after being left overnight to unfreeze.

"I knew there was something strange about it but I never dreamed it would be a dog. I screamed when I found out and felt physically sick. It smelt absolutely horrible," Ganley told the court.

Outside the court Ganley said: "My husband Trevor is partial to a bit of rabbit but he hasn't touched any since."

Butcher Steven Hughes was cleared by the court of selling a product "not of the nature demanded" and Birmingham's senior environmental health officer, Ian Coghill, said there would be a further inquiry into the meat's origins.

experts' talks would be held soon on a possible distortion of competition, caused by the Austrian ban. (Kuna)

**De Cuellar to visit Moscow:** United Nations Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar will pay an official three-day visit to Moscow at the end of this week, it was officially announced on Tuesday.

During his visit, De Cuellar will meet with Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev and a number of Soviet officials. (Kuna)

## Latin America



## Irresponsible army

President Alan Garcia criticised Peru's army on Tuesday for not protecting a former defence minister who was killed by suspected Maoist guerrillas in a hail of gunfire at a shopping mall.

"In spite of the barbaric crimes committed here, some people still are not conscious that we are at war with terrorism," Garcia said after rushing to the hospital where Enrique Lopez Alujar died.

Garcia said he was outraged that Lopez Alujar was alone and without bodyguards. As former army commander, the army would have been responsible for his security.

Four men armed with submachine-guns walked up to Lopez Alujar, a retired army general who served as defence minister until last May. He was sprayed with at least 15 bullets as he stepped out of his car at a Lima mall, police said.

Picture shows police inspecting his car. (Reuters wirephoto)

## 4 mine workers killed

Four mine workers were killed when their vehicle was destroyed by a land mine reportedly laid by leftist guerrillas, and army troops sent to recover the bodies killed 13 guerrillas in a gunbattle, officials said Tuesday.

Officials said the mine was placed near the town of Condojunt, 33 miles (540 kilometres) southeast of Lima, by Shining Path guerrillas planning to attack a military patrol.

Army troops dispatched to recover the bodies encountered a column of guerrillas, and the firefight ensued, officials said. It was not clear if the rebel patrol was the same group of guerrillas that allegedly laid the mine.

## Rebels accuse government

Angolan rebels accused the Marxist government on Tuesday of launching a new offensive in southern Angola as international peace efforts stumbled.

In a statement issued in Lisbon the rebel group Unita said troops made a twin-pronged thrust from the southern province of Kunene towards Savate and the Namibian border on Sunday. Four brigades and four tactical groups had been identified already.

It gave no further details. But it said fighting on another front further to the east was continuing, with 14 soldiers and six Unita guerrillas killed between Jan 5 and 8.

Fighting there, along the Kunzumbia river south-east of the battered town of Cuito Cuanavale in south-eastern Angola, has raged since Dec 21, killing well over 100 people.

Negotiations have stumbled between the Marxist government and Western-backed rebels in Unita to try to stop the 14-year civil war which followed independence from Portugal.

## Suspects to be named

The Salvadoran government said on Tuesday it hoped to name within three days the chief suspects in the November massacre of six Jesuit priests, their housekeeper and her daughter.

"We hope that this can be solved in 72 hours," government spokesman Mauricio Sandoval told reporters.

The six priests and the two women were shot at close range on November 16 after being dragged from their beds on the Jesuit Central American University campus in San Salvador.

A Salvadoran Jesuit leader said on Tuesday he believed senior army officers were involved in the massacre.

## Mexico seizes drug lord

Mexican police have seized one of the nation's top marijuana smugglers and a tonne of drugs intended to ship to the United States, the attorney general's office said on Tuesday.

Manuel Bracamontes, who for years has been wanted for smuggling marijuana across the Mexican-US border, was caught in the northern city of Monterrey, an attorney general's office spokesman said.

"For 15 years, Bracamontes had trafficked marijuana to the United States — he was a kingpin," he told Reuters. He did not immediately reveal the date of the arrest.

## Police remove miners

Federal police with submachine guns Tuesday closed down clandestine landing strips in northwestern Brazil in a campaign to oust illegal gold miners from Amazon Indian lands.

Last week, the government announced a 4-million-dollar operation to remove the miners from the lands of the Yanomami Indians, one of the world's oldest primitive tribes.

Some 40,000 miners are believed to be operating illegally on the Indian land, which is rich in gold, tin and diamonds.

About 9,000 Yanomamis live in the region, near Brazil's northwestern border with Venezuela.

**Cabinet named:** President-elect Patricio Aylwin on Tuesday named an 18-member cabinet dominated by members of his own centrist Christian Democratic Party, but several key posts went to moderate socialist and other allies.

The cabinet, with a broad political base, will be made up of nine Christian Democrats, five socialists, three members of smaller groups in Aylwin's 17-party coalition and one independent.

**Curiosity kills a cat:** A cat found its way into a Peruvian power plant outside Lima on Tuesday and stepped on 10,000-volt electricity rods, electrocuting itself and blacking out much of this city of seven million people for about 15 minutes.

Workers restored power to the city after removing the cat's remains from the rods, said a spokesman for state electric company Electro Peru.

## Africa

**Draft constitution introduced:** President Joaquim Chissano introduced a draft constitution Tuesday that would provide for universal suffrage, a secret ballot, and direct election of the president and Parliament in this formerly Marxist country.

Under the draft constitution, which will be debated in meetings throughout the Southern African nation, Mozambique would remain a one-party state.

But Chissano, unveiling the draft at a public rally, said the question of a multiple party political system should be freely discussed.

In addition to being battered by a 12-year guerrilla war, Mozambique is among the world's poorest countries. About half its population of 13 million needs food aid.

The new constitution, if adopted by the People's Assembly, would also scrap the death penalty, outlaw torture, enshrine the right to strike and reintroduce the private ownership of land which ended with Portuguese colonialism in 1975.

**Rebels accuse government:** Angolan rebels accused the Marxist government on Tuesday of launching a new offensive in southern Angola as international peace efforts stumbled.

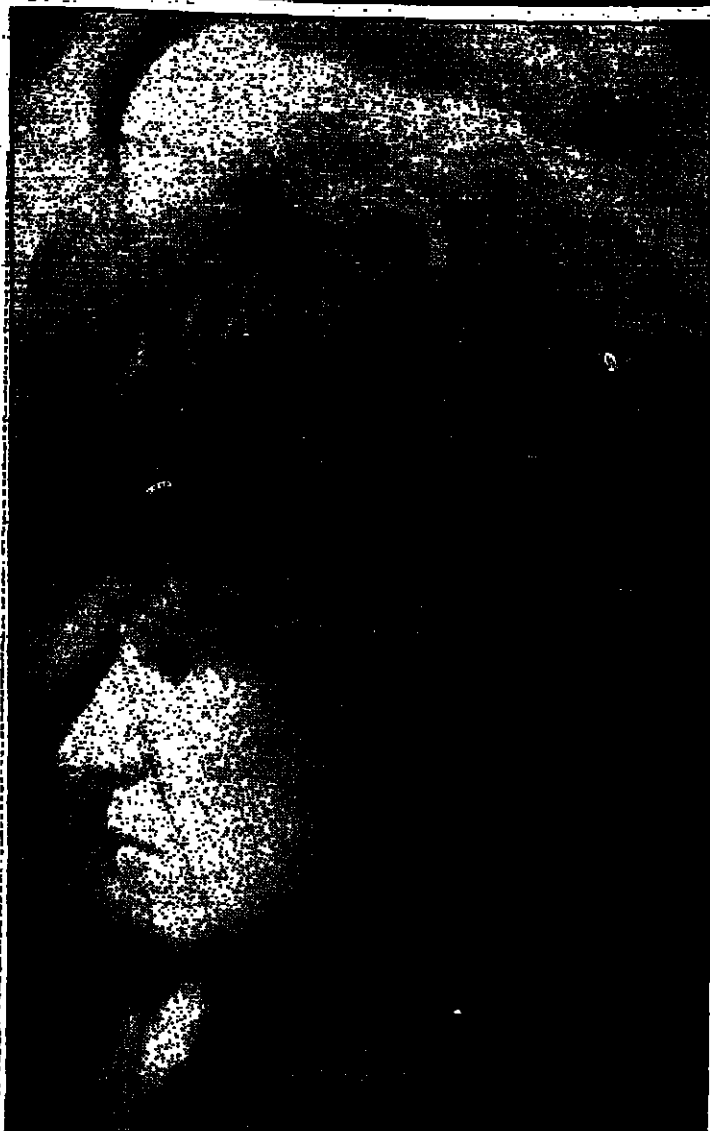
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\$175m 'slow death' suit

Veronica Prego sits in a New York courtroom Jan 8. Prego brought a \$175 million suit against the New York Health and Hospital Corp. and two doctors claiming she caught Aids by pricking her finger on an infected hypodermic needle while working at Kings County Hospital. Her attorney is charging that the city is responsible for the slow death of the physician. (Reuter wirephoto)

## Guilty of love nest smash-up

Knicker-nicking MP

LONDON, Jan 10, (AP): Ron Brown, the occasionally bawling far-left member of parliament, won a legal victory yesterday when a jury found him innocent of stealing two pairs of knickers from his ex-mistress.

But the parliamentarian from Edinburgh, Leith, was found guilty of breaking nearly all the glass in her apartment, including a mirror scrawled with the word "love".

Brown was fined 1,000 pounds (\$1,600), ordered to pay prosecution costs of 2,500 pounds (\$4,000) and also to pay 628 pounds (\$999) to Nonna Longden to repair the damage to her apartment.

"It's difficult for someone with left-wing politics, with a Scots accent, sometimes getting a fair hearing," Brown said outside the court in Lewes.

The case did nothing to dim the 49-year-old Brown's reputation as the most individual individual in parliament — a supporter of the communist government of Afghanistan, friend of Libyan leader Moammar Khaddafi and personification of the militant wing of the Labour Party.

Andrew Rawnsley, political columnist for the left-leaning newspaper the Guardian, once likened Brown to a distant planet — "a strange, small, blonde, passionate place on the fringes of the known political universe" and

"the home of all lost causes." Brown was arrested at a railroad station on April 25 after Mrs Longden's boyfriend called police to report that "a well-known character" was causing a disturbance.

Police searched Brown's pockets and found a picture of Mrs Longden as an infant, a pair of China earrings, a watch and two pairs of knickers — the British term for panties.

Brown told police he had gone to the apartment to retrieve some compromising belongings, and had been pursued by her new boyfriend, Demot Redmond. According to Brown, Redmond did the smashing.

The prosecution contended that Brown had hoped to revive his three-year relationship with Mrs Longden, and lost his temper when he encountered Redmond.

"I am almost afraid to mention the words 'ladies' knickers' in this case," judge John Gower said in his summation on Monday, "because they have assumed a proportion out of all proportion to any sensible consideration of this case."

Brown didn't testify, but his attorney, Edward Rees, said in summation: "It's the hope of the defence that a common-sense jury will consider that a man is not going to walk around the streets with knickers hanging out of his pocket."

## Oldest meteorite found in China

BEIJING, Jan 10, (AP): Chinese scientists have discovered what they say is the world's largest and oldest meteorite near Shenyang in northeastern China, an official daily newspaper reported today.

Geologists estimate the meteorite, known to local farmers as Huashitai Hill, is 4.5 to 4.6 billion years old and fell to Earth 1.9 billion years ago, the China Daily said.

They said the meteorite mound, located about 20 kilometres (12 miles) southeast of Shenyang, is 160 to 190 metres (525 to 623 feet) long, 50 to 100 metres (164 to 328 feet) wide and 40 to 120 metres (131 to 393 feet) high. It weighs about 2 million tonnes and is covered with granite.

The daily said geologists discovered the meteorite in 1984 after deposits of ferro-nickel ore were detected there. Further

excavation found substances distinctively different in structural composition and geological age from the surrounding area.

The scientists found in the area around the granite foundation a glass-like substance apparently formed under high temperatures and pressure when the meteorite hit the Earth, the newspaper said.

Geologists since have found evidence of a large group of meteorites covering up to

300 square kilometres (120 square miles) in the suburbs of Shenyang.

The report said the meteorite predates the oldest rock originating on Earth, believed to be about 3.6 billion years old, and its nodular structure is a byproduct of the formation of the solar system.

Study of the meteorite could provide valuable information about the secrets of the universe, it said.

## \$35m winner turns up for work

NEW YORK, Jan 10, (AP): A 49-year-old Italian auto assembly line worker from Westchester county who won \$35 million says he went to work Monday and didn't tell anyone he'd won the largest unshared prize in New York lottery history.

Antonio Buetti of Bedford Hills looked around at his fellow workers and "was thinking many friends I've got. I was thinking I hope they win someday," he said.

Buetti attended a news conference yesterday with his wife of 24 years, Francesca. Both said they were unsure how they would spend their money, but they knew their lives would never be the same.

"I'm very nervous and very excited," said Buetti, who came to this country 23 years ago from Calabria.

He added he was unsure whether he would quit the job that earns him between \$30,000 and \$35,000 a year — pocket change compared to the 21 annual payments of about \$1,666,666 (\$1,210,416 after taxes) he will begin to receive starting in about two weeks.

Why did he go to work on Monday? "I went in just to be funny, to see how I feel, a millionaire working the assembly line," he said.

Repeatedly Buetti was in the kitchen of his Bedford Hills home when he realized late Saturday that he had the winning numbers, which he had chosen at random. He confirmed it repeatedly by calling the lottery information line before he believed it.

The couple has a daughter, 17-year-old Polina, and twin 16-year-old sons, Dominic and Nick. Buetti said she quickly realized "what we can't do before, now we can afford — vacation and buy a nice home."

"I have a lot of dreams. Now I'm glad all my dreams come true," she said. She held a bouquet of flowers, given to her by her attorney.

The Buettis went to see the attorney yesterday rather than show up for a morning news conference.

"I would like to say I think I've seen them all now. This is the first time I've been stood up for a big lottery prize," said Russell V. Gladieux, executive deputy director of New York's lottery, after Buetti's now-show.

The lottery office sent a limousine to Buetti's home to pick him up yesterday morning. "They pounded on the door and everything," Gladieux said.

In a news release announcing Buetti's win, the winner was described as "quite nervous about facing the public" and overwhelmed by his win.

On Sunday an actress perpetrating a hoax claimed to have the winning ticket and attracted some media attention, but the lottery release said Buetti had confirmed his ticket by calling the lottery information line and was confident his ticket was legitimate before he turned it in.

### Degree fraud

## 200 sent for trial in Italy

TURIN, Italy, Jan 10, (Reuter): More than 200 people were sent for trial in Italy yesterday in connection with the alleged sale of phoney university degrees for tens of thousands of dollars by a bogus bishop.

The degrees, many in medicine and dentistry, are alleged to have been awarded after an examination in up to 35 subjects in 30 minutes that was usually followed by a fancy dinner.

Investigating magistrate Lorenzo Poggi said candidates paid up to 70 million lire (\$55,000) for the degrees, issued by self-styled Bishop Pierino Gennaro as rector of the Turin-based "Pro Pace Academy."

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### PEOPLE AND PLACES

LONG BEACH, California: Britain's bearded Prince Michael inaugurated a "Harrods" boutique aboard the ship the Queen Mary with its clean-shaven crew.

The Queen Mary's owner, Walt Disney Attractions, has banned facial hair on all crew members. The policy recently prompted the dismissal of the first officer and several other mustachioed employees.

But the prince did not make a fuss during Friday's ribbon-cutting ceremonies for the outlet of the famous London department store.

"I like to think my grandmother Queen Mary would have been proud and pleased to know such a distinguished retirement awaited her namesake," he said. (AP)

NEW HAVEN, Connecticut: Bob Dylan will open an international tour with a warmup concert Friday at Toad's Place, a New Haven nightclub that in August featured the Rolling Stones.

To get Dylan to appear at the club, which can hold only 700 people, Toad's offered to let him keep all proceeds from ticket sales, said Mike Spear, president of Toad's. Tickets are to cost \$15.

"We were not looking to make money. We were interested in having another legend," Spear said after Toad's landed the Stones to close out the 1980s, Dylan's appearance "is a great way to start the 1990s," said Katherine Cornack, Toad's director of booking and promotion.

Dylan's latest album is titled "Oh Mercy." (AP)

CHICAGO, Illinois: Author Lois Lowry won the 1990 John Newbery Medal for children's writing and illustrator Ed Young captured the Randolph Caldecott Medal at the American Library Association's mid-winter meeting.

Ms. Lowry's "Number the Stars" won for the most distinguished contribution to American literature for children published in 1989.

Young was selected for his illustrations in "Los Pequeños de la Calle" (The Little Ones of the Street) from China.

The awards, announced Monday, are administered by the Association for Library Service to Children, a division of the American Library Association. (AP)



Restructured face

Police officer John Williams displays pictures of a reconstructed head of a dead 15 or 16-year-old girl in Cardiff on Jan 8, whose body was discovered buried in a roll of carpet, possibly murdered five

years ago. Artist Richard Neave used the shape of the skull to build a clay model of the victim. (Reuter wirephoto)

HONG KONG: Police say they have arrested a man in Hong Kong in connection with the seizure of 143 pounds (64.86 kg) of heroin concealed in cases of Chinese fruit imported to Los Angeles.

The man was arrested Saturday after US authorities discovered the high-grade heroin hidden in 192 cans of fruit in a syringe found in Los Angeles last month, police said.

The drugs would have sold for about \$64 million in the United States, the statement said.

Officers of the US Drug Enforcement Agency and US Customs also arrested two men — a Chinese and a Vietnamese — in Alhambra, California,

on Saturday in connection with the drug bust, the statement said. (AP)

NEW WILMINGTON, Pennsylvania: The Reverend Jethro Sumner, a former aide to President Richard Nixon who spent seven years in prison for the Watergate scandal, said his life took a tumble when he started treating Nixon like God.

Magruder, executive minister of the first community Church of Columbus, Ohio, was a special assistant to Nixon and deputy campaign director for the committee for the reelection of the president in 1972.

SANTA ANA, California: A crematorium has been ordered to pay nearly \$1.9 million to the owners of a next-door auto shop who couldn't stand the stench.

"It's an outrageous, noxious smell that I don't think any normal person could stand without gagging," Larry Haat, co-owner of the auto shop in Laguna beach, said Monday.

A superior court jury voted 11-1 on Friday to award \$800,000 for emotional distress. On Monday, it voted unanimously to award punitive damages of nearly 1.1 million dollars against McCormick Mortuary and its operator, Robert McCormick Jr. (AP)



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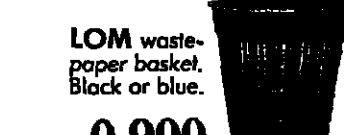
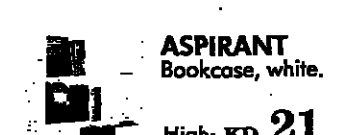
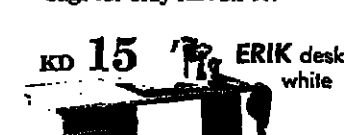
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# HK refugee camp conditions criticised

HONG KONG, Jan 10, (UPI): An international women's group today deplored "concentration camp-like conditions" in Hong Kong refugee camps and criticised the government for forcibly repatriating boat people before sending volunteers back to Vietnam.

The group, which visited five detention centres normally closed to outsiders, told reporters conditions were "inhumane" and urged the British colonial government to allow voluntary agencies to work in the camps run by prison personnel to improve the lives of the Vietnamese.

The delegation, headed by former US Assistant Secretary of State Patricia Derian and Norwegian actress Liv Ullmann, denounced Hong Kong's refugee situation hours before a group of 123 boat people flew to Hanoi as part of a voluntary repatriation programme.

The latest group of returnees brought to nearly 1,000 the number of boat people who have voluntarily flown home since March rather than face forced repatriation if they are found to be economic migrants rather than genuine refugees.

Those classified as economic migrants have no

chance of resettlement overseas and must stay in the crowded camps until they are sent back to Vietnam. Britain carried through with its threat to forcibly repatriate boat people last month, sending 51 Vietnamese back to Hanoi in a secrecy-shrouded operation that government officials said was only the first in a planned series of planned deportations.

Expressing special concern for women and children held behind barbed wire and high walls in the detention centres housing about 56,000 Vietnamese, the group said conditions in the camps appeared to be deliberately bad to discourage new arrivals.

"No justifiable excuse exists for imprisoning

infants, keeping them behind barbed wire, packed like sardines in concentration camp-like conditions," they said in a statement. "The delegation can only conclude that the policy is designed to punish people who are seeking freedom."

Women in the camps are particularly vulnerable, Ullmann said.

They are scared of everyone — of the gangs, their fellow Vietnamese and they are scared of the police," she said, adding that young women told members of the group they had been told by correctional officers they must provide sexual favours if they were to receive protection in the camps.



Liv Ullmann listening to Vietnamese women from Hong Kong's Sek Kong refugee detention centre as they tell of their treatment in the camp. (Reuters wirephoto)

## Mandela to be released soon

Only a matter of time

JOHANNESBURG, Jan 10, (AP): Government-run radio said today the release of jailed black nationalist Nelson Mandela was "only a matter of time," the strongest signal yet that his freedom is imminent.

The editorial by the South African Broadcasting Corp. also said Mandela, the country's best known black leader, can play a central role in opening black-white political dialogue.

"It has been clear for some months that it is only a matter of time before Mr Mandela's release is announced," the broadcast said. "Moreover, by identifying himself with the ideals of peaceful development he has redefined his position."

In recent weeks, there has been almost daily speculation in the news media about Mandela's release. President FW de Klerk is widely expected to make an announcement on Mandela's status when he opens parliament on Feb 1.

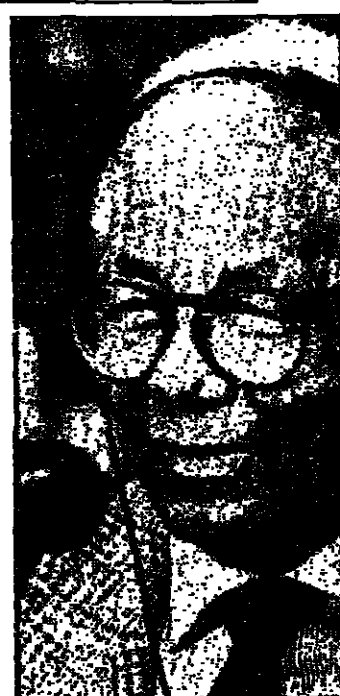
For most of Mandela's 27 years in prison, the white-led government has portrayed him and the outlawed African National Congress guerrilla movement he leads as terrorists and communists.

But recently it has described Mandela in favourable terms, in an apparent attempt to prepare the white community for his release.

"He would be in a position to make an important contribution to the creation of the conditions in which (black-white) talks could get under way," the editorial said today.

Meanwhile, The Citizen, a pro-government daily newspaper, said a planned visit within the next month by former US presidential candidate Jesse Jackson may affect the date of Mandela's release.

"The government does not want to give Mr Jackson, an arch-critic of South Africa, any kudos if an announcement of the release of Mandela, which would be the case if an announcement were made during his visit," The Citizen said, quoting unidentified government sources.



Sisulu: demand

The government has said it will grant Jackson a visa, but no dates for his trip have been announced.

Mandela, 71, has been jailed since 1962 and is serving a life sentence for sabotage and plotting to overthrow the government. He has refused to renounce the ANC's guerrilla campaign, saying he will do so only if the organisation is legalised and apartheid is dismantled.

Mandela has received a steady stream of visitors in recent weeks, ranging from cabinet ministers to prominent anti-apartheid leaders. He met Dec 13 with de Klerk at the presidential office.

The West's biggest trade union, the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU) accused South Africa's state-run transport company yesterday of complicity in the killing of six black transport workers in a clash during a strike.

President Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe today described current reforms of South Africa's racial policies as too few and too timid to be meaningful.

## Alatas tries to revive talks

BANGKOK, Jan 10, (AP): Indonesia's foreign minister tried today to revive Cambodian peace talks, while sources in Phnom Penh acknowledged that bomb blasts had hit the capital and guerrillas had launched an attack near the second-largest city.

The minister, Ali Alatas, met in Bangkok with leaders of the three guerrilla groups, including Khmer Rouge representative Khieu Samphan.

He also met with Australian Deputy Foreign Secretary Michael Costello, who had just returned from Cambodia after promoting Canberra's plan for a UN administration there until free elections are held.

Alatas has organised several rounds of peace talks. Reports of major Khmer Rouge attacks have intensified fears that without an agreement the communist guerrillas could seize power again. The Khmer Rouge governed Cambodia from 1975 until late 1978 when Vietnam invaded the country to oust the guerrillas. During their rule, the Khmer Rouge were blamed for killing hundreds of thousands of people.

The Khmer Rouge is the largest of three allied guerrilla groups fighting the Vietnamese-installed government.

Several plastic explosives went off in the streets of Phnom Penh last Friday night, and several more the next night, the eve of National Day, said Khieu Samphan, editor of the government-sponsored weekly newspaper Kampuchea.

He denied Khmer Rouge claims that grenades were used and that the blasts had forced Vietnamese-installed President Heng Samrin to flee to Vietnam. He said the city was quiet and citizens were not concerned because the blasts in four or five different places had not caused injuries or damage.

"There weren't even any broken windows," said the editor, reached by telephone from Moscow.

He said fighting in the western provincial capital of Battambang, the second-largest city, was limited to villages 10 to 15 kilometres (six to nine miles) away. That city also was quiet Wednesday, he said.

The official government radio said last yesterday that at midnight Friday, 100 to 200 Khmer Rouge guerrillas attacked through four suburbs of Battambang town in an attempt to blow up an iron bridge.

But the Khmer Rouge army radio said early today the guerrillas had held Battambang town for four hours and still controlled a position that had defended route 5, the major highway leading from the city across the country to Phnom Penh.

## Fleeing China persecution

TOKYO, Jan 10, (AP): The man who hijacked a Chinese airliner to Japan last month claims he had been arrested for pro-democracy demonstrations in China and was fleeing political persecution, a lawyer said yesterday.

Kazuo Iwaki told reporters that Zhang Zhenhai claims to have damaged unoccupied tanks and armoured cars during pro-democracy demonstrations in Beijing's Tiananmen Square last June.

She quoted the 35-year-old Zhang as saying, "there is no democracy and freedom in China. After the Tiananmen Square incident, many people were arrested or punished. Then I thought I would try to seek political asylum."

## China lifts martial law to pacify foreign critics

Beijing is politically stable now, claims Li

BEIJING, Jan 10, (AP): Premier Li Peng lifted Beijing's seven-month-old martial law today and said the army had saved China from "the abyss of misery" by crushing last spring's pro-democracy movement.

The largely symbolic action appeared intended to ease foreign criticism of China's crackdown on dissent and convince the World Bank and industrialised nations to restore badly needed loans.

Li did not mention foreign criticism in his 10-minute speech, which was taped today morning and broadcast at 7 pm (1100 GMT) on

national television and radio.

He defended his May 20 declaration of martial law in central Beijing for the first time in the history of the People's Republic as "timely, necessary and correct."

Li had acted after more than one million people filled Beijing streets to show support for student pro-democracy protesters.

"School classes were suspended, traffic disrupted, workers blocked on their way to work ... and the capital in a state of anarchy," Li said of

the May situation. If he had not imposed martial law, he said, Chinese "would have again fallen into the abyss of misery."

China now "is stable politically, economically and socially, production and lives are in good order ... and people live and work in peace and contentment," he said.

He thanked the army and police for "immortal heroic feats in maintaining order and security in the capital and in defending the Communist Party leadership," adding: "For this, the people will never forget them."

Beijing streets were quiet immediately after the speech. Earlier today Chinese asked about the widely anticipated move said it would have little impact on their lives.

In Hong Kong, drivers along one major roadway honked their car horns raucously after hearing the news on local radio. The British colony is to revert to Chinese rule in 1997.

Japan, a major source of loans to China, said it welcomed the announcement as a sign that Beijing wanted to improve foreign relations.

Along with other Western nations, Japan suspended loans to China after the June crackdown on dissent. It has indicated recently it intends to resume loans, but Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu had been asking for China to show it was trying to improve relations with the West.

The official radio followed Li's speech with an editorial praising the move and a programme of martial music.

Li wore a dark gray Western-style suit and sat at a desk, his hands folded in front of him most of the time. His calm manner was in sharp contrast to his agitated, arm-waving delivery when he announced May 19 that the government would not permit the student-led protests to continue. He issued the martial law order the following day.

Even without martial law, Chinese security forces have wide authority to quell dissent. The government passed a law in November banning all but pro-government demonstrations. Conducting strikes and putting up political posters already are illegal.

The constitution forbids any action that might undermine the socialist system.

Chinese sources said they were told Li would make the announcement last night, and that martial law would be ended at midnight yesterday (1600 GMT). Chinese reporters also said they were alerted to receive the news last night.

Li did not record his speech until this morning. Sources said he spoke in the Great Hall of the People, although all that could be seen on the television was the desk at which he sat and bookshelves behind him.

Several people interviewed on the street said lifting martial law would be a good move, and one said it could make it easier for students to resume protests.

But most said it would make no difference.

Arrests and executions have scared most Chinese dissidents into silence, but rock singer Hou Dejian has begun once more to rage against what he calls the "worst government possible."



Roh: prediction

## US may cut army in Seoul

SEOUL, Jan 10, (AP): A withdrawal of up to 5,000 US soldiers, reducing troop levels to what they were in 1980, is an option being considered for a troop reduction in South Korea, the US embassy said today.

The decision will be made after US Secretary of Defence Richard Cheney holds consultations with his South Korean counterpart, said a statement issued by the embassy. Cheney is expected to visit Seoul on Feb 14.

An assessment on South Korea's ability to defend itself against the communist North is underway and will be factored into the decision, US officials said.

US troop withdrawals are a sensitive issue and many Koreans have been alarmed by reports that the US government may bow to congressional pressure for spending cuts and reduce the 43,000 troops stationed in South Korea under a mutual defence pact.

Today's statement was issued after Korean media quoted US Ambassador Donald Gregg as telling journalists in the city of Kwangju yesterday that a reduction of 4,000 to 5,000 troops was expected.

"The report is inaccurate," said the statement. "The thrust of Ambassador Gregg's remarks was that ... the US troops will remain in Korea as long as the people and governments of both countries wish them to remain."

Radicals and dissidents, a small but vocal minority, have staged violent demonstrations demanding troop withdrawals, claiming the presence of US soldiers hinders talks on reunifying the Korean peninsula.

South Korean President Roh Tae-woo today predicted reforms sweeping East Europe would soon reach communist North Korea and he called for a meeting to discuss free travel between the two Koreas.



Rock star Hou fights on (Reuters wirephoto)

## Kaifu welcomes strong Europe

Aid offered to East Bloc

BRUSSELS, Jan 10, (Reuters): Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu said today his country welcomed the stronger Europe that would emerge after the European Economic Community completes its vast single market at the end of 1992.

"We are paying very close attention and we have high hopes for this," Kaifu told Belgian Prime Minister Wilfried Martens during talks here. "We are very much encouraged."

Kaifu, who formally unveiled a \$1 billion aid programme for Poland and Hungary in West Berlin yesterday at the start of a seven-nation European tour, was meeting Jacques Delors, head of the EEC's executive commission, and Nato Secretary-General Manfred Wörner.

Japanese officials said Kaifu was expected to discuss with Delors the growing political influence of the 12-nation EEC, as highlighted by the community's own plans to aid reformist Eastern European governments.

The officials said they expected Kaifu to seek reassurances from Delors that the EEC's barrier-free internal market would not be closed to imports after 1992. In return, he would spell out Japan's plans for opening its own market to more foreign goods.

The officials quoted Kaifu as telling Martens that events in Eastern Europe were of global concern. Martens stressed the

need for free elections to be held by secret ballot to ensure the creation of multi-party political systems in reforming nations.

Martens, while welcoming Tokyo's pledges of aid for Poland and Hungary, also pointed to the continued need for financial assistance to Africa, where Belgium was a colonial power earlier this century.

The Brussels government was ready to co-operate with Japan in supplying aid to sub-Saharan African nations, he said.

Kaifu, who paid a courtesy call to King Baudouin before meeting Martens, flies to Paris tonight for talks with French President Francois Mitterrand.

The tour will also take him to London, Rome, the Vatican, Warsaw and Budapest before he returns home on Jan 18.

Kaifu offered up to \$1.75 billion in financial aid as well as new trade and investment guarantees to Poland and Hungary yesterday.

Japanese news reports have said Japan's total aid package to the two reform-oriented East European countries could be worth \$1.95 billion.

French Minister for European Affairs Edith Cresson lashed out at Japan today as an "adversary" that "wants to conquer the world" in an interview published hours before an official visit by Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu.

## Bid to calm UK, China uproar

BEIJING, Jan 10, (AP): Hong Kong Governor Sir David Wilson arrived today for talks aimed at calming diplomatic storms between China and Britain and reviving flagging confidence in the future of Hong Kong.

Wilson, making his first trip to Beijing since the bloody suppression of the pro-democracy movement here last June, will be meeting a Chinese leadership that has been increasingly hard-line in its opposition to political reform in the British colony.

During his three-day stay, he will meet with Vice Foreign Minister Zhou Nan, Ji Pengfei, head of the Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office in the state council, and Premier Li Peng.

When he arrived, Wilson said he hoped the visit would provide an opportunity to explain the views of Hong Kong people and "try to re-establish a dialogue which is so important for dealing with the various issues we have facing us."

He said he hoped his meeting Friday with Premier Li would give him a chance to "explain to him what is going on in Hong Kong," including political developments.

The visit will be a last chance for Britain to express its views before the final meeting in Canton next week of the basic law drafting committee, a body drawing up the laws that will govern Hong Kong after it reverts to Chinese rule in 1997.

Relations between China and Britain have plummeted since the crushing of the Tiananmen protests last June.

China has criticised Britain for permitting pro-democracy activities in the colony.

The Chinese government also accused Britain on Dec 30 of a "gross violation" of past agreements in its decision to give 50,000 Hong Kong families the right to abode in Britain before 1997.

The British nationality package was aimed at providing guarantees for the futures of Hong Kong's most talented people, whose confidence in life under communist rule was badly shaken by Beijing's violent suppression of dissent last spring.

The harsh condemnation of the residence package came several weeks after Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher sent foreign policy adviser Sir Percy Cradock on a secret mission to Beijing to try to defuse controversies between the two nations.

China's well-liked de facto ambassador to Hong Kong Xi Jiatun, who once wrote an essay praising the virtues of capitalism, is retiring and will be replaced by a conservative foreign affairs official, a Chinese official said today.

Xu, 74, will be replaced as head of the Hong Kong office of China's Xinhua News Agency by Zhou Nan, a 62-year-old diplomat who now is vice foreign minister in charge of European affairs.

An increasing number of Vietnamese boat people are now voluntarily leaving Hong Kong for home, officials of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) said today.

## France backs off sale deal

PARIS, Jan 10, (Reuters): France yesterday cancelled a planned deal to sell French frigates to Taiwan after strong protests from China. French officials sources said.

The plan, reported to involve six unarmed vessels worth about \$1.2 billion, threatened to worsen relations between France and China already tense since the crackdown on troops on pro-democracy demonstrators in Beijing last June.

China, which does not recognise non-communist Taiwan, protested last week to Foreign Minister Roland Dumas through its ambassador to France, saying the sale would be a direct interference in China's internal affairs. China has already complained about the sale to December.

France backed down after recognising that "the affair was more delicate than had been initially thought," the source said.

## America puts anti-drug deployment off Colombia on hold

WASHINGTON, Jan 10, (Reuters): The United States has placed on hold, at least temporarily, a controversial plan to deploy warships off Colombia's coast to fight drug trafficking, US officials said yesterday.

US ships "are not en route to Colombia, but that doesn't mean they will never go there," a senior US official said.

Another US official said using warships for drug interdiction efforts is "something we would like to do (but) in terms of actual deployment, a decision has not been made."

Despite the controversy, US officials said plans were proceeding for Bush's participation in a four-nation Andean drug summit in Cartagena, Colombia on February 15.

Recent reports that a US aircraft carrier and a nuclear-powered naval cruiser were heading for Colombia's Caribbean coast to try to block the flow of drugs sparked opposition in Colombia but US officials said the proposal would not go into effect without Colombia's concurrence.

This would seem difficult given the current climate.

One US official told Reuters: "It (the plan) is temporarily up in the air, but I think the Colombians will agree to a co-operative effort. After all, they want to catch smugglers as badly as we do."

There has been increasing apprehension in Latin America over what critics view as US willingness to intervene militarily in other countries, particularly after the recent US invasion of Panama to oust General Manuel Noriega.

Bush last week said he would send Vice President Dan Quayle to Latin America to allay

concerns. Defence officials told Reuters earlier that the plan called for navy aircraft to keep watch over Colombia from international waters, monitoring the flights of small aircraft entering and leaving remote areas of the country.

Colombia's foreign minister Julio Londono Paredes denied yesterday he was resigning after his sharp criticism of US plans to block cocaine traffic by stationing warships off this nation's coast.



# Credibility in question

Witnesses in Noriega trial

WASHINGTON, Jan 10, (AP): Prosecutors trying the cocaine-trafficking case against Manuel Antonio Noriega will likely face a barrage of defence attacks on the credibility of government witnesses who once smuggled drugs.

A key prosecution witness against the deposed Panamanian ruler is expected to be Floyd Carlton Caceres, who is serving a nine-year sentence for drug trafficking.

The background of Carlton and other witnesses likely to testify in Noriega's Miami trial illustrates the problem prosecutors will encounter when they ask jurors to accept the word of convicted criminals.

But legal experts say the problem is common to such cases, where, in the absence of wiretaps or testimony by undercover agents, the only sources of information about a defendant are unsavoury people who were part of a drug operation.

President George Bush and Attorney General Dick Thornburgh have said the case against Noriega is strong, indicating a belief among federal prosecutors that their witnesses' testimony will hold up in court.

Defence lawyers probably will argue that the jury shouldn't believe testimony from disreputable people.

The answer the government is going to give is "who do you expect him to associate with?" said a former federal prosecutor who specialized in drug cases. "It's not an insurmountable problem," he said, "it's a typical problem," said the former prosecutor, who spoke on the condition of anonymity. "A major issue will be the ability of the government to corroborate the evidence from each of the witnesses."

Carlton has testified before congress that he arranged for the Medellin drug cartel of Colombia to pay Noriega \$200,000 for each plane load of cocaine that was shipped through Panama to the United States.

Others who may testify are convicted money-launderer Ramon Milian Rodriguez and convicted smuggler Steven M. Kalish. Both have testified about the protection Noriega allegedly gave Colombian drug lords, including armoured-car transport of cash and the use of military airfields.

In addition, prosecutors conceivably could call as witnesses any of the five arrested Noriega co-defendants who might decide to plead guilty and, in return for a reduced sentence, testify against Noriega.

An attorney for one of those co-defendants, Luis Del Cid, indicated on Monday that his client was considering becoming a government witness.

"There was a very preliminary exchange of amenities where the possibility of some settlement was discussed," defence attorney Samuel Burstyn said of discussions with federal prosecutors. "We're desirous of exploring all options, but no offers have been made on either side and there are no deals," he said.



Panama toll

The US Defence Department said it estimated that 220 Panamanian civilians were killed in the US invasion last month, a figure far below earlier unofficial estimates of 1,000.

The Pentagon said last week that 314 members of the Panamanian Defence Forces (PDF) were killed in the invasion and 124 wounded. Twenty-three US troops died, 323 were wounded and three US civilians were killed in the invasion. Picture shows a US soldier mourns fallen comrades during a memorial service in Panama City. (Reuters wirephoto)

The indictment describes Del Cid, who surrendered last month, as "invading US forces," as an "enemy," and a "courier of Noriega to the drug cartel."

The indictment says Del Cid arranged the payment of money from the Medellin cartel to Noriega.

Del Cid presumably could corroborate Carlton's past testimony about one alleged payment of protection money that is described in the indictment.

The indictment says that, at Noriega's direction, Carlton delivered \$200,000 to Del Cid at the headquarters of the Panamanian defence forces, which were led by Noriega.

Noriega was very helpful to the US drug enforcement administration in Central America, a former DEA chief says.

Peru has granted diplomatic asylum to 12 Panamanians being sheltered in the home of its ambassador, and hundreds of people sacked the headquarters of Noriega.

Panama's new UN ambassador Eduardo Vallarino presented his credentials to the UN secretary-general in a ceremony aimed at putting to rest conflicting claims over the envoy's post.

# UN calls for global anti-drug war

VIENNA, Jan 10, (AP): The international drug trade threatens the stability of entire nations, and the battle against violent international cartels can only be won if efficiently waged on a global scale, according to a UN report released today.

Traffickers now seek not just money but political control as well, one official said. Despite unprecedented counteraction taken by the world community, an interlocking network of criminal drug trafficking organisations, heavily financed and armed, has become even bolder and more ruthless, the 39-page survey said.

In its review of 1989, the Vienna-based International Narcotics Control Board

warned that "the danger of undermining and paralysing political institutions and economies of some countries has never been greater."

"The traffickers' declaration of war against a single country endangers the security and integrity of all countries and constitutes war against the whole international community," the board said.

To overcome the assault, "the response of the international community must be concerted, swift, more forceful, more comprehensive, (and) more innovative."

The board's 13 members, elected by the UN Economic and Social Council (Ecosoc), do not represent their govern-

ments. The board also co-operates with other international agencies concerned with drug control.

"For the criminal trafficking organisations, linked ... often with terrorist insurgents, to prevail in the struggle in any one country would imperil all countries," the report says. "The war to defeat them must be waged globally."

"A situation as we see it at present has never existed before," INCB secretary Abdel Aziz Bahi said in an interview.

There have always been drug traffickers, but now they not only want money, "they want to seize power in the state," he said.

Since 1983, illicit production of narcotic drugs has increased and involved more countries, the INCB report said, citing as an "ominous development" the spread of opium poppy cultivation to Guatemala and Colombia.

In its survey, the board said it considers "a milestone" the conclusion in December 1988 of the convention against illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.

As of Nov 1, 1989, 77 nations and the European Economic Community were signatories to the convention, the board said, urging all other states to accede to it.

## Modrow may seek public opinion

WEST BERLIN, Jan 10, (AP): East Germany's communist premier, facing mounting challenges to his authority, is considering a national referendum on his government before free elections in May, West German media said today.

In Bonn, Chancellor Helmut Kohl reaffirmed plans for an East-West German summit with Premier Hans Modrow next month in West Germany but warned him against letting East Germany's democracy drive a wedge.

Kohl said he also remained ready to sign a formal agreement on closer ties with East Germany before the May 6 elections.

The chancellor's efforts to maintain cordial ties with the caretaker East German government came at a time of rising tensions.

Many West German politicians, including members of Kohl's own Christian Democratic Party, have joined East German opposition groups in criticising communist efforts to retain power in East Berlin.

West Germany's ZDF television network, quoting unnamed sources in non-communist parties in the East German governing coalition, said Modrow may decide to call an early referendum on his government to gain legitimacy.

If a majority of voters support Modrow's government, an early referendum, that would boost communist chances in the May elections. If the communist government lost, the opposition almost certainly would demand its immediate resignation.

Modrow was to give a speech tomorrow in Parliament, which would have to approve any plans to hold a referendum.

While there is little definitive data on the public's perception of East Germany's interim government, Modrow himself is extremely popular and well-respected.

New Forum, the biggest opposition group, reportedly warned against the move, saying that would pre-empt the country's first free elections and delay reform for some time to gather public support.

Kohl also told reporters he was worried about the continuing exodus of dissatisfied East Germans to West Germany — more than 1,000 a day. The new immigrants join the 340,000 who reached the west last year alone.

"With their peaceful revolution, (East Germans) opened the gate to freedom and democracy, and they want this process to continue," Kohl said.

The exodus has hurt East Germany's economy, and new signs of economic difficulty emerged today.

The official Communist Party daily Neues Deutschland said that recent warning strikes by dissatisfied industrial workers were partly justified by a slow reaction by authorities to their grievances.

The stoppages were called to protest special severance payments to state security agents dismissed in the government's announced dissolution of their ministry.

## Brez liked killing animals

PRAGUE, Jan 10, (Reuters): Leonid Brezhnev, Fidel Castro and other communist dignitaries would bag up to 2,000 hares and pheasants a day during 1970s shooting parties on luxury estates in Czechoslovakia, the state news agency CTK said yesterday.

It reported the Czechoslovak Hunting Society as complaining at a recent meeting that Communist Party dignitaries took more pleasure in killing the animals than in sportsmanship.

The party used a number of old aristocratic estates such as Zidlochov near Brno in southern Czechoslovakia.

Cuban leader Castro shot two rare Chamois deer, a protected species, and Soviet president Brezhnev enjoyed the sight of a dying animal so much that he had the death of one deer filmed.

# Lynch mobs are out

Romanians seek revenge against Ceausescu officials

BUCHAREST, Jan 10, (UPI): Mobs hungry for revenge after 25 years of repressive rule under dictator Nicolae Ceausescu are lynching or shooting officials connected to his ousted regime, a Romanian newspaper said.

The report yesterday came a day after the start of military trials of members of Ceausescu's secret police, accused of killing hundreds and perhaps thousands of people during last month's pro-democracy revolution.

The Bucharest newspaper Adevarul said vigilante groups are taking justice into their own hands in some areas of the country, lynching or

State-run television showed excerpts of the trial of a major in the Securitate, or secret police, charged with attempted murder in the wounding of a soldier. The broadcast said the major was convicted and sentenced to nine years in prison.

A secret military tribunal convicted and executed Ceausescu and his wife, Elena, Dec 25 for genocide, corruption and anti-state offences. The government has since abolished the death penalty.

It remains unclear how many people are facing trial for crimes linked to the Ceausescu government. It also is unknown how many Securitate members remain at large.

Western diplomats said the remaining Ceausescu loyalists are believed to pose little threat to the new government except possibly for individual acts of terrorism.

Fighting ceased almost immediately after the government announced that Ceausescu had been executed. Western sources estimate about 7,000 people were killed since the first outbreak of violence Dec 16 in the Western city of Timisoara.

Romania's interim government appealed for calm in a nationally broadcast statement, urging Romanians to avoid acts of violence.

Executed Romania's new leadership said yesterday a maximum of 10,000 people were killed in the December revolution and claimed 50,000 people were executed — about 40 a week — during the rule of Ceausescu.

Silviu Brucan, a senior member of the executive of the ruling National Salvation Front (NSF), said: "The total number of dead during the revolution in Romania is no more than 10,000," Romanian television reported.

He declared January 12 a national day of mourning.

Nicu Ceausescu, the youngest son of Ceausescu, personally ordered army and police units to shoot on revolutionaries last month.

The daily Adevarul (truth) said yesterday the order to shoot without warning was given Dec 17 in Sibiu County, southern Transylvania, where Nicu, 39, was party secretary.

Nicu apparently referred to the Rev Laszlo Tookes, an ethnic Hungarian Protestant tried to evict from his church in the Western city of Timisoara, where he hid with his pregnant wife after masked assailants entered his home in early November.

Dissident A senior Romanian leader has rejected warnings from prominent dissident Doina Cornea that the revolution is in peril, saying she was "irresponsible and politically naive."

Silviu Brucan of the ruling NSF invited Reuters to the Foreign Ministry last night to answer criticisms Cornea voiced in an interview on Monday at her home in the northwest Romanian town of Cluj.

The new government said yesterday it would seek to restore the trade privileges granted by the United States but renounced by Ceausescu.

The governing NSF also asked for diplomatic ties with the European Economic Community.

Swiss lawyer Moritz Leuenberger said today he has now been asked by the new Romanian government as well as by Romanian exiles to track down funds reportedly deposited in Switzerland by Nicolae Ceausescu.

Former King Michael, predicting a groundswell of support in Romania for his return to the throne, said today he could help restore stability and freedom to his country.

shooting former provincial and security officials and terrorising members of their families.

"A lot of executions are taking place without trials," the newspaper said. "These are horrible things that remind us of the dictatorship."

Adevarul said the attacks were "absolutely contrary to the democratic climate established in our country."

"Any other act of judgement (other than the government's) is against the law and results only in causing panic in society," the newspaper said.

## Zoe had long line of lovers

BUCHAREST, Jan 10, (Reuters): The high-living daughter of Romania's executed dictator Nicolae Ceausescu had a long line of lovers, was a seasoned traveller and was almost permanently drunk, a Bucharest newspaper said today.

Whenever she ran away from home, her mother Elena ordered a nationwide search mobilising militia and secret police, an article in the independent daily Tineretul Liber (Free Youth) said.

Zoe Ceausescu, said to be in her late 30s, was arrested hours before her parents were executed by an army firing squad on Dec 25 after a military court found them guilty of genocide.

She and her playboy brother Nicu are in detention awaiting trial. No trace has been found of their adopted brother Valentin.

The newspaper said Zoe fell in love very easily and her escorts ranged from government ministers to simple barmen.

"When she saw a handsome man she wouldn't let him go until she had hooked him."



Romanian children examine sophisticated western candies they are seeing for the first time ever in a state-run kindergarten in Cluj. The candies are part of a shipment of foreign aid. (Reuters wirephoto)

The paper said Zoe would drink her lovers under the table and kick them out of her room if they became too drunk to respond to her advances. It said she had twice undergone treatment for her drinking.

# Pan Am probers confer

LOCKERBIE, Jan 10, (AP): Senior investigators, police and prosecutors from the United States, Britain, West Germany, Sweden and Malta met in Lockerbie today to assess progress in their world-wide hunt for the bombers of Pan Am Flight 103.

Chief Constable George Esson of Scotland's Dumfries and Galloway Police Force said the one-day conference at the Lockerbie House Hotel is the fifth in a series attended by personnel from the five countries.

No public statement was expected after the meeting, which was held behind closed doors. Security was tight.

The 30 participants, who included representatives of the US Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Department of Justice, were dressed in plain clothes and were not identified.

The four previous conferences were held in Lockerbie, Washington, London, and Meckenheim in West Germany.

A terrorist bomb hidden in the luggage hold of the Pan Am Boeing 747 landed the plane apart over the southern Scottish town of Lockerbie on Dec 21, 1988.

All 259 people aboard the plane, which was flying from London's Heathrow airport to New York, and 11 people on the ground were killed. Flight 103 originated at Frankfurt, West Germany, changing planes at Heathrow.

Investigators hunting the bombers have confirmed that one focus of their attention is the Syrian-based popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command headed by Ahmed Jibril.

Jibril has denied involvement but acknowledged his group has used similar devices to the plastic explosives hidden in a radio-cassette player which investigators say blew up flight 103.

Esson has said the suitcase containing the radio-cassette bomb was either checked in at Frankfurt airport, or passed through Frankfurt from a feeder flight. West German authorities say there is not enough evidence to pinpoint where the bomb originated.

See also Page 11

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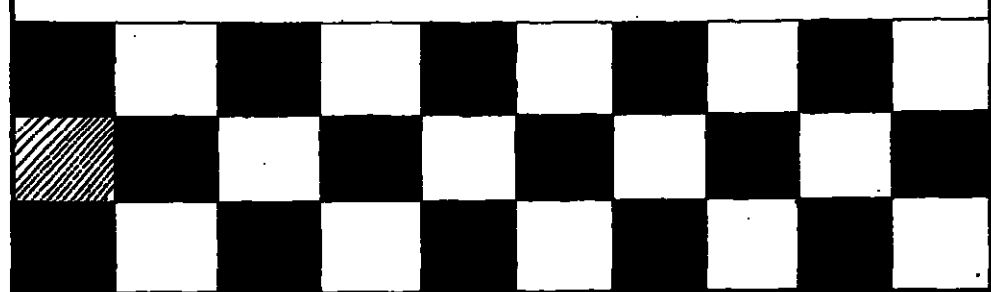
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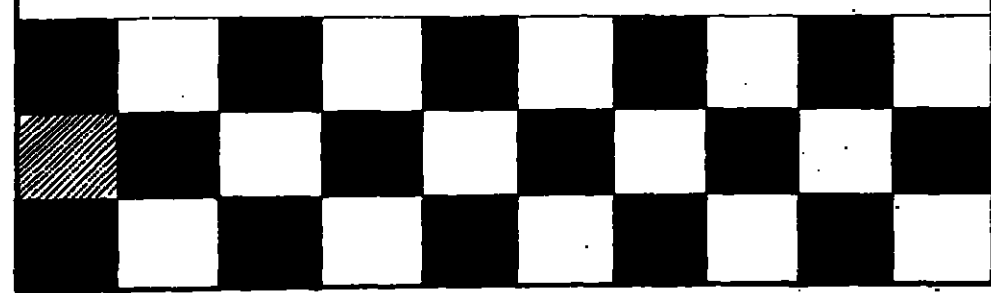
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13023 Safat Kuwait.  
A surer alternative is to deliver by hand to the Arab Times, Al-Seyassah Building, Airport Road, Shuwaikh.

## Gulf ministers discuss national labour force

ABU DHABI, Jan 10, (AP): Labour ministers of the seven Gulf Arab countries started a 3-day meeting yesterday to discuss aspects of developing a national workforce that can gradually take over from the millions of foreign hands they employ.

In the six countries that make up the Gulf Co-operation Council — Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain, Oman and the United Arab Emirates — some six million foreigners are employed to help with the massive, oil-fueled economic and social development plans that began with the oil boom of the 1970s.

They are mainly from Southeast Asia

and other Arab countries, and from several Western countries, especially Britain which had traditional close ties with the region.

Iraq has a developed labour force but resorted to foreigners, including more than one million Egyptians, when its men were at the front during the 1980-1988 war with Iran.

Iraq is grouped with the GCC states in what is called the Arab Gulf Council of ministers of labour and social affairs, whose 10th annual session is now convened.

"In spite of the labour and social achievements fulfilled, there are still a lot

of challenges and obstacles facing our joint efforts, but we are optimistic about the future," said Khalaf Al Roumi, the UAE minister of labour and social affairs in his opening speech.

Roumi, elected chairman of the current session, said recent developments would enhance life in the region. He listed the birth of several groupings within the 22-member Arab League, the return of Egypt after a 10-year hiatus because of its 1979 peace treaty with Israel and the Iraq-Iran ceasefire.

The agenda has several aspects of co-operation like classification of jobs, labour and social guidance programmes, training

programmes, vocational safety and its role in protecting human resources and creating awareness among citizens of the importance of their role in development.

Across the years, the council already sanctioned a rule that member states should start by hiring nationals, then other Arabs and finally non-Arab foreigners. But these rules are not enforced by law.

"The gap between the local and foreign workforce in the GCC states will take a long time to be closed," said Iskandar Rashad, an adviser to the Institute for Administrative Development at Abu Dhabi, speaking for the sparsely-populated countries south of Iraq.

## 14,600 visit visas issued in December

IMMIGRATION departments in the four governorates issued about 14,600 visit visas, during December last year, a sharp increase from the previous month.

A statistical release issued by the Interior Ministry yesterday said that over 8,000 of the visas were issued to families while about 6,350 were issued for businessmen.

There were 171 government visit visas and 53 others for patients. The number of visit visas issued last month were almost three times more than the number of visas issued during November last year.

Over 5,500 visit visas were issued in November 89. The number of work permits issued during last month had more than doubled compared to work permits issued in November. But most of the increases was in maids' work permits.

The release said that 8,667 work permits were issued in December of which 7,295 were issued for maids. In November, over 3,800 work permits were issued, with over 3,000 for maids.

In addition, 633 work permits were issued for private sector labourers during December and 668 family visas were also issued. The four immigration departments in December issued 13,648 new residences and during the same month cancelled 7,112. The departments renewed 29,389 residences, issued 730 temporary residences and transferred sponsorships of 5,421 labourers to new sponsors.

## Promotions at Ministry of Education

A TOTAL of 2,477 employees will be promoted at the Ministry of Education, according to Abdul Al Jarallah, assistant Undersecretary for Financial and Administrative Affairs.

In an interview with a local daily, Jarallah said that the Undersecretaries Council in its meeting held recently has approved the promotion of these employees on the basis of seniority.

He added that the council has agreed to the appointment of Kuwaiti females in primary schools where presently, the teaching staff is exclusively male. The new appointees will undergo intensive training before taking up their job functions as secretaries, librarians, store keepers and sociologists, the official said.



Haroon visits

Undersecretary of the Higher Education Ministry, Dr. Msaad Al Haroon visited the Technical Studies College, the Communication and Aviation and Electricity and Water Centres yesterday. The undersecretary also visited all sections enclosed in addition to laboratories and workshops.

Dr Haroon met with the dean of the Technical

Studies College, Dr Sulaiman Shams Al Deen who escorted him in a tour inside the computer and civil engineering laboratories. He also met with the director of the Communications and Aviation Centre, Jassem Al Zanki. During the visit Haroon was escorted by the director of the Public Relations Office at the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training Khaled Sulaiman Al Eralfan.

## Investors prefer fixed deposits

## Stock market fails to attract new funds

MOST of the dealers involved in the stock market after 1983 incurred exorbitant losses as the then purchase price was far higher than current levels, Sjafer Al Othman, deputy director-general for local investments affairs at Kuwait Securities Group said.

In an interview with a local daily, the official clarified that since 1983, the market had witnessed significant and continued retreat. He commented that this scenario has resulted in local investors refraining from investing in the local market.

Othman disclosed that the majority of investors during the last few years preferred to deposit their funds in banks in the shape of fixed deposits or investing abroad and other investors placing their confidence in the real estate market.

The official added that the stock market had failed to attract new funds during the last few years and this resulted in share prices to decline. He clarified that attracting investors to the local bourse, requires that these investors be convinced that their activities will produce good returns.

Meanwhile, the official said that the forward sale speculation

system proved ideal for reactivating of the stock market as speculation on price differences was substantial and consequently profit margins became attractive.

Additionally, the forward sale system plays a significant role in attracting new investors to the market which eventually led to inflow of new funds and an improvement in share prices.

Speaking of investment funds, the official said that although these vehicles constitute a basic element that could help create a new mechanism for trading in the bourse, he expressed some doubts on its potential for increasing prices in the bourse.

He pointed out that the proposed funds will be based on collecting of funds; but the market is not suffering from a cash shortage. Basically, he said, investors are seeking opportunities to profitably invest their funds.

Othman pointed out that cash inflow constitutes a problem in itself in the absence of investment funds and concluded that investment funds will not solve the problems facing the bourse.

Meanwhile, other dealers disclosed that though the market has never suffered from any cash problem, the current signs

indicate that the bourse is still unable to attract investors.

Furthermore, these dealers said that the market had lost a choice of its active dealers during the last few years. They further disclosed an important fact when they announced that about 94 per cent of deals in the market was conducted by the government companies and the individual activities were not exceeding 6 per cent of the dealing volume.

However, observers were in agreement that profits made by the companies is a major reason for relevant shares prices hike. A great number of the local companies had adjusted their positions and are currently distributing dividends with the banking sector distributing considerable dividends per annum. They said in Tokyo Bourse for example the price of each share should equal at least 60 folds of the dividend to be distributed for each share while in Kuwait that value of the share was equaling 12 to 13 folds of the dividend for each share.

The observers said that speculative activities play the major role towards pushing forward shares prices and called for lifting off the restrictions imposed on the speculations.

## Muslim food show in Singapore

SINGAPORE, Jan 10, (Kuna): Kuwait will participate in the world's first International Muslim food and technology exhibition to be held here in August, a spokesman for the organisers said today.

The spokesman told Kuna 20 booths at the four-day exhibition have been reserved for exhibitors from Kuwait.

To be held together with an international halal food conference, the exhibition is expected to draw as many as 250 international exhibitors and 5,000 trade visitors.

Organised by the Singapore Malay Chamber of Commerce, the \$250,000 project, has attracted attention and support from as far afield as Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and all the Muslim countries in the region.

Haji Abdul Kadir Haji Elias Ali, vice-president of the chamber, said the exhibition, titled Intex 90, will raise awareness of the business potential of halal food, the only kind of food Muslims can consume.

He pointed out there are about 1.8 billion Muslims around the world. They consumed an estimated \$60 billion worth of Muslim food last year.

Singapore's exports of halal food to the Middle East increased by 30 per cent in 1988 to \$124 million and are expected to keep rising.

Food exports to the Middle East include vegetable oil, coffee and tea, chocolates and confectionery and frozen seafood.

Ridwan Dzafir, director-general of the Trade Development Board which first mooted the idea, said local businessmen with the technology and know-how to manufacture halal food can look for joint-venture partners or sell their contract-manufacturing ability at the exhibition.

## Education panel

A PANEL on reformation of primary education in Kuwait is to be held early next week in presence of national educationists and experts, Education Undersecretary Abdul Rahman Al Khodary announced.

He said the four-day panel which is opening tomorrow is mainly aimed at assessing the primary education stage with the objective of reaching broad links and formulating that can best suit the local society and respond to the country's development needs.

## Most children are inspired by TV heroes

## Survey alarms parents

A RECENT survey on the psychiatric and educational effects of the television and the video sponsored by the Education Ministry showed 84 per cent children derive iconic inspiration from their TV heroes.

The survey showed that 92 per cent children talk about what they see on TV, which clearly reflects the profound influence that this magic box had on them and their behaviour.

The survey results indicated that 45 per cent of the parents showed little concern for what their children chose to watch on TV during their teens.

The survey also revealed that 97 per cent children showed considerably increasing interest in watching recorded material, which took them through their teens and that 65 per cent of them chose their favourite material to watch away from parental control or guidance.

The survey warned that the majority showed a general trend towards using the video as an entertaining rather than a medium for education and knowledge, about 83 per cent children covered by the survey had more than one TV set at home, and they lacked minimum parental guidance.

The survey quoted parents as saying that 91 per cent of the material shown on TV was

violence-packed movies, which raised tension that would result in nightmares.

According to the survey 70 per cent of parents said that their children watch Western movies, and that addition to Western culture expanded the existing gap between the young and old generations.

The parents contacted agreed that watching TV was a good pastime during holidays and official recess, and 70 per cent saw TV as a good communication medium that helped children to understand global and national issues, the survey disclosed.

The survey stressed the need for increasing parental control and guidance over the material their children watched on TV or VCRs, particularly at a time when their age did not permit them to decide what was good or bad for them.

The survey also stressed the need to tighten censorship on recorded material offered by video-shops, whereby strict measures would be taken against those who dealt with material that cast harmful effects on the younger generation.

The survey recommended the role of schools in increasing students awareness so that children would develop self-appreciation of what they could label constructive or educative.



Officers honoured

General Director of the General Traffic Department Brigadier Abdul Hameed Haji Abdul Raheem yesterday honoured a number of police officers for their high performance while on duty. The ceremony held at the Higher Traffic Council hall was attended

by a number of traffic department directors. Haji in a speech on the occasion praised the officers efforts and high sense of duty. The general director distributed certificates and symbolic gifts among the officers.

## Additional cost for tele-tower

THE Telecommunication Tower project's layout is in need of incorporating amendments which will require additional financial costs to be added to the project's budget, Barrak Al Turkey, chief engineer of the constructional projects engineering at Kuwait's Ministry of Public Works said.

Without elaborating on the details of the cost of the proposed amendments, the official said the value of the towers of the telecommunication building amounted to KD25 million with the involvement of 650 engineers and workers alongside 40 sub-contractors.

In an interview with a local daily, Turkey said that the new premises of the Telecommunications Department consisted of several buildings as well as 372-metre high tower. This tower is intended to serve the needs of telecommunication services bet-

ween Kuwait and the entire world. The major portion of the building has been accomplished, including the main part of the tower — estimated at 220 metres. Another six floors and a hole will be built to accommodate the telecommunication equipment.

The official expressed his satisfaction of the progress of the work which he said was according to the relevant programmes. All the works in the project will be accomplished during the first half of 1991, Turkey said.

Replying to a question, the official said that the ministry is encouraging local contractors to participate in the implementation process of the ministry's projects, clarifying that some tenders were opened only for local contractors.







## ARAB TIMES

## Thought for today

I AM always ready to learn, but I do not always like to be taught — Sir Winston Churchill, British statesman (1874-1965).

# Leaders seek Angolan peace

## Goal slips further

LAUNDA, (Reuters): African leaders are redoubling their efforts to bring peace to war-weary Angola, but each time they try to move forward their goal seems to slip further out of reach.

The latest bid to find an "African solution" to one of the continent's longest and bloodiest conflicts was to begin yesterday with a summit of eight African heads of state in the Angolan capital.

But only 36 hours before the start, the meeting was vetoed by Zairean President Mobutu Sese Seko who let it be known he was too busy to attend amid fresh signs of disagreements with Angola's Marxist authorities.

No new date has been fixed for the summit, which had already been postponed several times.

### Tactic

It would not be the first time Mobutu has used the tactic of the "empty chair", perfected by the late French leader Charles de Gaulle, to remind others not to take him for granted.

Despite Mobutu's denials, Zaire is thought to be the main channel for US aid worth an estimated \$50 million each year to National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (Unita) rebels.

This alone makes him one of the key brokers in the efforts to end the 15-year-old war, a role formalised in his mediation between Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos and rebel leader Jonas Savimbi.

The Zairean president, using a mixture of guile and bluff, began the peace negotiations with a spectacular coup last June when he persuaded the two men to meet and shake hands in his palace of Gbadolite in front of a host of African leaders.

But the verbal agreement collapsed within weeks and Savimbi angrily disowned the terms he was supposed to have accepted at Gbadolite.

### Fighting

Since then fighting in southern Angola has intensified and six months of diplomatic manoeuvring seems only to have driven the two sides further apart.

They now seem to be wary not only of each other but also of Mobutu.

Dos Santos spoke for the first time in a Portuguese television interview last weekend of an "impasse" in the talks, a word previously avoided by the Angolans.

For his part, Savimbi described a new peace formula offered by Dos Santos on Dec 30 as a step backwards.

The eight heads of state met last August and September without Savimbi, lining up behind the official Angolan version of what was agreed in Gbadolite.

The most controversial elements of this package were that Savimbi should withdraw from politics for an unspecified period and integrate his pro-Western guerrillas into the government, political and military system.

In recent weeks Dos Santos has dropped the demand that Savimbi should withdraw, saying there are "other possibilities" for him.

### Elections

But he has flatly ruled out Unita's demand for free elections and a multi-party system.

There has been further friction between Angola and Zaire over ceasefire proposals by Mobutu believed to involve the stationing in Angola of troops from other African countries.

These proposals have been accepted by Unita but rejected by the Angolans as in breach of their sovereignty.

A call by Dos Santos in his television interview for the meeting to clarify and redefine his role as mediator may have made Mobutu decide to pull out of the Luanda summit.

The so-called group of eight consists of Angola, Zaire, Congo, Gabon, Mozambique, Sao Tome and Principe, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

The African presidents, all of them with one-party states of their own to protect, are expected to stand behind Dos Santos in opposing Unita's demand for a multi-party system as "un-African".

### Slogan

But Savimbi's slogan of free elections is topical, coming soon after the success of neighbouring Namibia's election under UN supervision.

It also coincides with the shock waves running through Africa from events in Eastern Europe where one-party rule has largely been discredited as a political system.

Dos Santos says his country, potentially one of the richest in Africa but now one of the poorest, is too backward to hold multi-party elections "at this historical stage".

Instead he has promised a "democratic opening" to other social forces outside the ruling party and said that independent candidates could stand in elections.

## TODAY IN HISTORY

- 1569 — First lottery in England is drawn in St Paul's Cathedral under Queen Elizabeth I's patronage.
- 1681 — Brandenburg and France sign defence alliance.
- 1753 — Spain's King Ferdinand VI signs concordat with Pope Benedict XIV.
- 1814 — Joachim Murat, king of Naples, deserts Napoleon Bonaparte and joins allies.
- 1887 — Otto von Bismarck advocates larger German Army.
- 1919 — Romania annexes Transylvania.
- 1942 — Japanese take Kuala Lumpur, Malaya, in World War II.
- 1943 — Britain and United States relinquish extraterritorial rights in China.
- 1945 — Truce is declared in Greek civil war.
- 1962 — Avalanche buries village in the Andes in Peru, and 3,000 people are reported killed.
- 1970 — In Nigeria, 32-month-old secessionist Biafran regime collapses under onslaughts by Nigerian control government.
- 1972 — New state of Bangladesh is recognized by East Germany.
- 1975 — Soviets launch manned spaceship to rendezvous with space laboratory sent into orbit around the earth.
- 1976 — President Rodriguez Lara of Ecuador is ousted in a coup.
- 1988 — Study shows increase of \$930 million in military expenditures throughout world in 1987.
- 1989 — More Cuban troops leave Angola under a US-brokered agreement between Cuba, South Africa and Angola.



Several thousand Bulgarians demonstrate in Kurdzhali southern Bulgaria on Friday to protest the decision last month by the Communist leadership to restore civil rights to the country's 1.5 million ethnic Turks (Reuters wirephoto)

## Bulgarian opposition leaders angry

# Communists encourage protests

SOFIA, Bulgaria. (AP): Bulgarian opposition leaders and Western diplomats say communist hard-liners are encouraging Slav protests against the Turkish minority, taking advantage of an old ethnic conflict to disrupt democratic reforms.

"It's an organized process from lower and middle levels" of the Communist Party, "and even some people at the top," Petko Simeonov, a leader of the opposition club for glasnost and democracy, asserted.

"Local party leaders fear they're going to lose their privileges. They fear they are going to lose their skin," said Konstantin Trenchev, a 35-year-old leader of the Union of Democratic Forces, an umbrella opposition group.

"As far as we can tell, local party officials, who have not yet been touched by perestroika," are organizing the protests, said a Western diplomat in Sofia, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Thousands of nationalists in the past week have staged strikes and demonstrations in at least eight cities across Bulgaria to protest a Dec 29 decision by central authorities to restore cultural and religious rights to the country's estimated 1.2 million Muslims, mostly ethnic Turks.

The independent trade union Podkrepa in southern Haskovo and Kardzhali, where some of the most vehement ethnic protests occurred last week, said local officials commandeered buses and cars, megaphones and flags for the protests.

For years, ethnic Turks and Muslims were subjected to a harsh assimilation policy under former Communist Party leader Todor Zhivkov that even forbade the use of non-Bulgarian names.

Petar Mladenov, who replaced Zhivkov on Nov 10, has promised to steer Bulgaria out of its Stalinist past and into a democratic future.

The outburst of anti-Turk sentiment is embarrassing Mladenov's government and will likely complicate upcoming round-table talks with the democratic opposition on reform and free elections promised by many.

Simeonov said the protests "could push the country in a neo-fascist and nationalist direction" and delay the talks.

The deep mistrust between nationalists among the country's Slav majority and ethnic Turks has been fanned since the mid-1980s by Zhivkov's assimilation policy and anti-Turkish propaganda, opposition leaders say.

But the current conflict sprang at least in part from a serious rift between hard-line communists and reformist leaders in Sofia.

Trenchev said he doubts the hard-liners can retain lasting influence, given the radical changes sweeping through Eastern Europe.

"They cannot exist alone in the world, isolated between East and West," he said.

But a fascinating account of Zhivkov's ouster indicates that the former leader, who had been in power for 34 years, did not go willingly, and probably still enjoys the support of some communists.

According to Venislav Raichev, a Bulgarian journalist who wrote the story for the Soviet weekly Moscow News, Zhivkov had resisted all calls for reform in Bulgaria and had decided to crush opposition inside and outside the party.

Security forces were placed on alert on the eve of the Nov 10 central committee plenum, the account said.

Defence Minister Dobri Dzhurov and two other senior officials, all comrades of Zhivkov's in a World War II partisan group, then talked to Zhivkov privately and urged him to quit, Raichev wrote.

Zhivkov was "virtually escorted" to a politburo meeting that same evening to prevent him contacting close aides, the journalist said. At the politburo meeting, Zhivkov said he would resign, but tried to block Mladenov's nomination by proposing premier Georgi Atanasov, a more conservative communist, as his successor, Moscow News said.

Atanasov, who has retained the premiership, declined, paving the way for Mladenov's nomination, the weekly added.

The picture it painted of internal party rifts suggests it would be easy for local communists who owe their position to Zhivkov to organise the kind of protests seen in the last week in Bulgaria.

Senior communist leaders, opposition members, representatives of the Turkish minority and Slav nationalists held a second round of consultations Tuesday to try to defuse the situation.

On Monday, they called for a moratorium on further large protests or strikes. Tensions appear to have abated as a result, but ethnic hostility is deeply ingrained and could flare up.

Despite the moratorium, a few dozen anti-Turk demonstrators gathered again Tuesday around the national assembly, or parliament, in Sofia, and some of their remarks were tinged with racial tones.

## INSIDE WASHINGTON

By Henry Brandon

# US administration worried

## Asian-Pacific relations deteriorate

THE Bush administration is seriously troubled by the deterioration of its relations with several countries in the Asian-Pacific region. It has become all the more aware of it as its relations with the Soviet Union and Western Europe have greatly improved.

The contrast between the rapidly growing economic co-operation within the European Economic Community and the lack of such co-operation in the Asian region is so glaring that the administration early last year tried to do something about it.

It attaches, therefore, special significance to the process of forming a structure for economic co-operation in the area which began last spring when a dozen countries met in Canberra, Australia, to set it in motion. The process has come to be called the APEC process and further discussions among high officials are scheduled for this month in Washington with a ministerial meeting to follow in Singapore and another one in 1991 in South Korea.

Although APEC has so far aroused little world attention, the United States, according to a high State Department official, considers it the most significant development in Washington's Asian policy. "In ten years time," he suggested, "historians will share this view. Europe in the Economic Community has a well advanced structure for economic co-operation and, consequently, has gained a great deal of inner economic strength. The lack of such a structure in the Asian-Pacific region, he concluded, is proving to be a serious handicap and needs to deal with."

The American priorities in the Asian region are, first, strengthening the US-Japanese partnership which has badly deteriorated, secondly, re-establish a more normal relationship with the Chinese government and, thirdly, resolve the conflict over Cambodia. The two secret trips to China by two of President Bush's top foreign policy advisers is proof that the President is most anxious to maintain contact with Beijing, the conservative backlash in China notwithstanding, in order to preserve some influence with China's leaders and to impress on them that they should resume their liberal reform programme. The chances of his exercising such an influence at present are minimal however because there is a certain amount of evidence that the Chinese leadership is deeply impressed by what has happened to the communist regimes in Eastern Europe. It has made them more anxious to make sure that similar inner upheavals do not undermine the future of their own government. Under these circumstances they are unlikely to listen to American political advice. Deng Xiaoping, who reappeared in public last September after an absence of three months, did not show himself in the company of North Korea's Kim Il Sung, or East European leader or a Third World leader, but rather ostentatiously with a Chinese-American, professor Lee of Harvard University, a Nobel prize winner. The statements he made to the professor were an

indication that he wanted to continue his reform programme and that he wanted to sustain the old relationship with the US and with the West, but he does not seem have the policy control he used to have.

American officials confess that they find it, as yet, too difficult to determine whether the Chinese government will soon be in a position to adopt a more reformist attitude. President Bush has indicated to Beijing that he is ready to resume closer relations with China but that to dance to a tango (even though this may not be exactly a Chinese habit) two partners are needed. Only in a minor way, so far, has the Chinese government shown an inclination to co-operate. It cancelled the intermediate-range missile sales to Middle Eastern countries after the Bush administration objected to the deal and it also revived the Fulbright programme for American students to study in China. However minor these concessions, they are seen here as an indication of a desire to improve relations with the US.

Not so long ago the main reason the US sought good relations with China were strategic, to counterbalance Soviet power in the region. That reason has now been overtaken by history. Today the US is much more concerned with the possibility that turmoil in China could have an incendiary effect and cause trouble in the entire Asian region. Furthermore, sooner rather than later, China will play an important economic role in the region. High officials emphasise that Bush's attitude simply reflects the belief that it is in the US interest to maintain a constructive relationship with China.

What has surprised the Bush administration is the extent to which the Taiwan government, too, is seeking to maintain good relations with the Chinese mainland. There are some Taiwanese politicians who advocate Taiwan's independence, but that is not the official policy of the Taiwan government. American officials report that Taiwanese investments, undertaken via Hong Kong, on the mainland of China have not only been maintained but are increasing. It is quite obvious that the government does not want to interrupt those investments, but wants to continue them. Its policy toward China is similar to that of the US, it is the so-called "One China" policy and it has been that for some ten years. And no change should be expected.

However it is the tense relationship with Japan that is most worrying to Washington. The differences over economic and commercial policy are such that they are unlikely to improve soon unless Japan makes good on its promise to encourage American imports by reducing existing trade barriers.

Admittedly, the situation has improved in the last year especially but not enough.

Gorbachev, too, is anxious to improve relations with Japan. One reason is Soviet interest in Japanese investments, another is to sign a peace treaty to establish political stability in the Asian-Pacific

region. The reason no peace treaty has yet been concluded is because various territorial disputes have remained unresolved. The Soviet Union still occupies the so-called Northern Territories, the islands of the Habomais, Shikotan, Kunashiri and Etorofu. This happened not as a result of a lawful dispositor, in accordance with international law, but it was a unilateral decision through the use of military power.

Japan apparently has no intention of signing a peace treaty with the Soviet Union as long as the occupation of these four islands continues. For Gorbachev to make such a concession is not easy. After having let go of the Soviet East European empire, he probably finds it difficult politically to give up the kind of strategic territory these islands represent to the Soviets. To make it easier for himself, American officials believe, he is pressing the United States to reduce its naval bases, and naval presence generally, in the Pacific. Such a withdrawal, they suggest, would make it easier for him to say that he does not need those islands any more since their main strategic significance is to serve as a protection against American naval power. Soviet Foreign Minister Shevardnadze is scheduled to visit Japan in March and the island issue is expected to be high on the agenda.

Soviet eagerness to improve relations in the Pacific also extends to South Korea, whose outstanding industrial development has impressed the experts in Moscow. They are amazed how fast South Korea developed from a Third World country into an advanced industrial one. Russians themselves refer to their own state as being economically a developing one, and they are eager to learn how to create the industrial know-how, the skilled labour and the capital. South Korea today exports more than the big Soviet Union. Moscow, as a preliminary step has opened an office dealing with trade in Seoul, not yet an embassy, but diplomatic relations, irrespective of Soviet relations with North Korea, may well follow within a year or so.

Talking about diplomatic relations, the Vietnamese have been trying to convince the US that the time has come to establish diplomatic relations, but the US has been telling them that in order to reach an agreement on normalising relations the Vietnamese would first have to withdraw from Cambodia. There are various assertions that this has already happened or is in the process of happening, but it is still not clear whether any conditions are attached to it. There is little trust here in what the Vietnamese say.

It is not surprising, in view of the many unresolved issues, problems and uncertainties that the US looks at the Asian-Pacific region with a great deal of concern and with a certain determination to shift American attention much more to the Far East than it has in the past.

## Letters to the editor

### Unjust criticism

SIR: After reading Ebrahim Alkhamar's letter "Humiliating remarks" (AT, Jan 2) in response to E Haider's letter, it was clear he vented his criticism unjustly on E. Haider, whose letter was clearly referring to marriages between English and Kuwaiti persons respectively and her feelings about leaving family, friends, and expert medical care.

And rightly so. Our health service which is also free has one of the best reputations in the world. Our British doctors and nurses are impeccable. Still with problems, mistakes, wrong diagnosis, etc which they and every other country face, including Kuwait, they are still far superior in my opinion and always will be. The very large majority of Kuwaitis, Saudis and Gulf Arabs who use our health service prove that even more so.

Concerning the American education system in my district, my son's school is a government one which at the beginning of this year introduced this American way of learning. It's basically still in the early stages but should show signs at the end of this school year whether the children (Kuwaiti) have benefited from it or not.

If it proves a success, then I am sure our children when leaving school will be able to pinpoint Kuwait on the map. If not, then the Kuwaiti education authorities will probably introduce something better. My reference to these points are only to prove that even if their own systems don't work, the Kuwaiti government is always willing to introduce other systems to benefit their people whether they come along with mistakes or problems.

Surely in time it will show whether they have learned from these flaws to go on and introduce new ways whether they be Kuwaiti, American or British. I don't know of any country that can claim to have perfect health, education and society. Anyone with common sense can see that all is not perfect with society. We hope and pray, with flaws here and there, we as parents can instill good manners, morals and decency in our future generations.

Perhaps Alkhamar with admit to these flaws around him and I hope he will impress on his children to make this country a better one for the future of all people.

D. B. BASHA  
Al Rowadha

### UMO's achievements

SIR: This is to disclose some vital facts about UMO's activities. UMO is the organisation which conducted Bharat Mela for the first time in Kuwait during 1986-87 and it was a grand success. They collected good amounts from the community by organising dance festival, Nativity, Souvenir production, Malayalee Samajem, Cultural programme, Tapasya, drama competition and a children's competition at IAC.

But UMO never collected a single fil as admission fee from the public. UMO's services are not limited, but wide and sincere. Some of their achievements are: getting reduction for dead body transport to India, scholarship for brilliant and deserving students, the price hike check of Indian vegetables, evening country at Embassy of India for the service, UMO's instant relief actions towards starving people.

K. SURYA  
Safat

ALL Letters to the Editor must contain the writer's name and address. Publication is at the discretion of the Editor and letters are subject to the editing process for space or other reasons.

## Quote me

"I knew there was something strange about it but I never dreamed it would be a dog. I screamed when I found out and felt physically sick. It smelt absolutely horrible. I was in tears. I have got a dog myself. My husband Trevor is partial to a bit of rabbit but he hasn't touched any since." — A British housewife who bought a rabbit which turned out to be a dog to a law court.

"When I resigned, I decided not to deal with intelligence and security, because I was doing in the past, and not to engage in work on their own house and garden, neglecting the interest of the people and Romania as a country." — Mircea Răzescu on the Ceausescu era.

"Internally, it was a hell for the people. There was no hope for anybody, especially for the younger generation. On the international scene, Romania became an isolated country pointed to by almost everybody as a model which should never be followed by any civilized member of the international community." — A Romanian on conditions in Ceausescu's time.

"There's been a lot of talk about drugs coming out of Washington, and our city leaders are now sending out a message — a message that it's time for Washington to get a front-line report on what's happening and what's needed." — Alan Beals, executive director of the National League of Cities.

"Clearly our local leaders believe there is a need for national leadership and a stronger commitment of national resources to help eradicate the poisonous and violent drug culture that has invaded our cities." Executive director of the National League of Cities on the drug scourge in the US.

"Kuwait and the Arab world at large, out of their keenness for peace, security and stability of this region, hope that our neighbour, Iran, will show due response to the new Iraqi peace initiative, so that peace can be jointly built up." — Kuwait's Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed.

"There are defining events that tend to be remembered after the event itself has been forgotten. This was clearly a complex operation and the president clearly was personally directing events. And it worked." — Mitch Daniels, political director under Reagan on Bush's adventure in Panama.

"I can't smoke at home because of my kids. I can't smoke at work because of my colleagues, now I can't even smoke in public because of the government. I have been forced to cut down on my smoking." — A former chain-smoker on Singapore's campaign to wipe out smoking.

"I was looking for the bank and the way back on to the road when I thought, my God, that's water, not ice and snow in front of me... the next thing I knew, there was the almighty sound of cracking ice. Luckily I got the door open and was immediately in freezing water... when I got back with some helpers, the car had sunk without trace." — Cricketer David Gower who narrowly escaped death in an accident.



MIDEAST

# Blackmail: cries Jibril of Pan Am charge

BEIRUT, Jan 10, (AP): Radical Palestinian leader Ahmed Jibril said yesterday western accusations that he engineered the bombing of a Pan Am jumbo jet over Scotland was a deliberate attempt to blackmail Syria.

"We believe that campaign is aimed at blackmailing Syria and President Hafez Assad because the United States and (President George) Bush believe the time is ripe to settle scores with countries and movements hostile to imperialism," Jibril told a hastily arranged press conference.

Jibril, a former Syrian army captain who heads the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Com-

mand, has been blamed for the midair explosion of Pan Am flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland on Dec 21, 1988.

All 259 people on board and 11 people on the ground were killed.

Jibril claimed that the United States and France also hold Syria responsible for the twin suicide truck bombings of the American marine base and the French paratroop headquarters in Beirut that killed 241 US servicemen and 58 Frenchmen in 1983.

"But they do not want to face Syria outright so they did it indirectly by trying to implicate us in the (Lockerbie) bombing," Jibril told the packed news con-

ference at Mar Elias Palestinian refugee camp in West Beirut.

"We say it loud and clear that President Hafez Assad is not a Noriega and Syria is not a banana republic," the unshaven, tired-looking Jibril said in reference to the recent US invasion of Panama and the subsequent arrest of its former dictator Manuel Noriega.

Asked whether he condemns the Lockerbie bombing, Jibril said, "we condemn all acts that lead to the killing of civilians and innocents."

"But by the same token I want to ask, hasn't Bush in his recent attack on Panama willfully killed children, women and

infants?"

Asked to comment on reports that his group and Iran plotted the Lockerbie attack together, Jibril said, "These are just fabrications that are not based on any kind of truth."

Jibril and other radical groups broke ranks with the PLO led by Yasser Arafat over the PLO's recognition of Israel's right to exist.

Jibril rejected a call by another break-away leader, Khaled Fahoum, former head of the PLO's parliament-in-exile, for a reunification of all dissident factions with the PLO.

## Shiites step up battle in Lebanon

SIDON, Jan 10, (Agencies): Rival Shiite Muslim militias clashed with renewed fury in South Lebanon today, spurning mediation efforts by Iran.

The pro-Syrian Amal and Iranian-backed Hezbollah militias rained artillery shells and rockets on each others' positions for the 19th successive day, sending terrified villagers scurrying for cover.

Both groups, fighting for leadership of Lebanon's 1.3 million Shiites, denied a statement by Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Mohammed Ali Besharati yesterday that a ceasefire had been agreed.

Security sources said the militias shelled each other's positions in the villages of Ain Qana, Ain Bouwar, Jarjouh and Arab-salim in the Iqlim al-Tufah area, 40 km (25 miles) south of Beirut.

There were no reports of casualties from the six-hour non-stop barrage, the fiercest in five days. "At least 76 people have been killed and 280 wounded since fighting erupted on December 23."

Scores of villagers fled their homes. Many who fled earlier had just returned, thinking the fighting had eased.

Political sources said Besharati, who arrived in Beirut on Sunday, met separately yesterday with leaders of Amal and Hezbollah.

Muslim sources told Reuters the Iranian envoy, in several hours of talks, failed to persuade Hezbollah to withdraw from five villages seized from Amal in street-to-street battles.

The sources said the Hezbollah asked for guarantees that a peace pact signed last year with the more secular Amal would be implemented. Amal has said Hezbollah must quit the villages before any talks can start.

Despite recurring confrontations between Shiite militias in southern Lebanon, a Palestinian official said today the deployment of some 700 Palestinian troops has succeeded in halting the fighting.

An official in the PLO's mainstream Fatah Movement, Zaid Wehbe, said despite the limited violations "the deployment of Palestinian commandos stopped the violence by 90 per cent."

Some 700 Palestinians deployed last week from bases around Sidon to the region of Tufah in what has been described as a peace-keeping mission to act as a buffer zone between the rival Shiite groups.

"This was a Palestinian decision taken by (PLO chairman) Yasser Arafat to end the bloodshed," Wehbe said. "Any operations room which excludes the PLO cannot achieve its complete role in resisting Israel."

## Iran hangs 31 drug traffickers

NICOSIA, Jan 10, (Agencies): Iran hanged 31 drug traffickers today, including four Afghans and three women, in the first reported executions of such offenders this year, Tehran Radio said.

The radio said those executed in various parts of the country had distributed four tonnes of narcotics and spread prostitution.

The largest number 23, were sent to the gallows in the city of Karaj north of Tehran.

The Afghans were hanged after being found guilty of bringing drugs into Iran.

Iran, which officially admits to having a million addicts, lies on a drug-smuggling route from Afghanistan to the West.

Three of those hanged in Karaj were women, two of whom were sisters, and four were Afghan nationals, the report said.

The latest executions brought to at least 1,294 the total number of people hanged for drug trafficking in Iran since January 1989.

## Baker may abandon Mideast peace bid

Israel fails to respond to US

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, Jan 10, (Agencies): Israel's decision-making inner cabinet met today amid reports that US Secretary of State James A. Baker may abandon efforts to arrange a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue.

Israel radio said Baker, in an effort to revitalise the process, had asked US Jewish leaders and several members of Congress to pressure Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir to be more flexible.

Israel has demanded iron-clad assurances from the United States that Yasser Arafat's PLO would have no direct or indirect role in proposed talks to be held in Cairo.

On Tuesday, Baker was reported frustrated with delays in convening Israeli-Palestinian talks on an Israeli election proposal prompted by the 25-month-old uprising in the occupied territories.

A participant at Baker's meeting with Norway's Foreign Minister Kjell Magne Bondevik told reporters the secretary of state might soon decide to devote his time to other world matters "where there was some hope of getting things done."

The State Department said a preparatory meeting this month of Israeli, Egyptian and American foreign ministers was in doubt for lack of progress.

Israel says it is worried that the United States, its closest ally, will at some time assert the right of the PLO to take part in peace efforts.

The 12 member Israeli inner cabinet failed to respond to the American bid to convene Israeli-Palestinian talks.

"There are some problems to be solved but we believe the process is very much alive," Foreign Ministry spokesman Moti Amichai told reporters.

Inner cabinet met but offered no response to the latest American bid to advance an Israeli proposal for Palestinian elections in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Israel radio said the policy-making inner cabinet would act only after Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin returned next week from a trip to Washington.

Foreign Minister Moshe Arens said if Baker ends his personal involvement in Middle East peace efforts, Israel will look for other ways to implement its election plan.

"If it should turn out that we cannot, through Mr. Baker's five points, arrive at this dialogue that will deal with the procedures for holding elections then we will find another route to... move on to the elections," he said on Israeli radio.

Israeli Radio reported that Baker told Norwegian Foreign Minister Kjell Magne Bondevik in a Monday meeting that he was prepared to "throw up his hands" in the Middle East and concentrate his efforts on areas of the world where he can more easily find success.

The radio quoted a State Department official as saying that the quote was an exaggeration of Baker's views but added that "rarely is his smoke without a fire."

State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler said Baker called Egyptian Foreign Minister Esmat Abdel Meguid yesterday to discuss a planned meeting between Meguid, Baker



Arafat waves the victory sign to a crowd of people gathered to see him at the Egyptian Labour's University in Cairo. (Reuters wirephoto)

## Groundwork needed for ME talks

CAIRO, Jan 10, (Agencies): Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat held talks today with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak in a fresh attempt to revive what commentators said was dwindling interest in the Middle East peace process.

No details emerged and Arafat, chairman of the PLO avoided reporters after the one-hour meeting.

Palestinian sources said Arafat and Mubarak, joined by their top policy makers, discussed peace moves and implications of Egypt's newly restored ties with Syria — a base for anti-Arafat Palestinian factions.

Egyptian Foreign Minister Esmat Abdel-Meguid said yesterday that adequate preparations should precede the proposed Middle East peace negotiations, postponed due to unresolved problems.

Abdel-Meguid was reacting to a US decision to postpone a meeting with Israeli and Egyptian foreign ministers.

He made the statement to reporters after a 90-minute meeting with Arafat.

"Egypt is keen for the establishment of the dialogue, and to guarantee its success, adequate preparations should be made. We can not go to a meeting that would result in failure," Abdel-Meguid said.

Arafat said his talks with Abdel-Meguid were conducted as part of regular consultations between the PLO and Egypt for reaching a just and comprehensive Arab-Israeli settlement.

The tripartite meeting gathering Abdel-Meguid, Baker and Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Arens had been expected to take place in Washington this month.

and Arens in Washington.

"As long as there is hope, there is reason to be engaged," Tutwiler said. But she added: "He's also a realist. If the parties are serious he will continue to work with them."

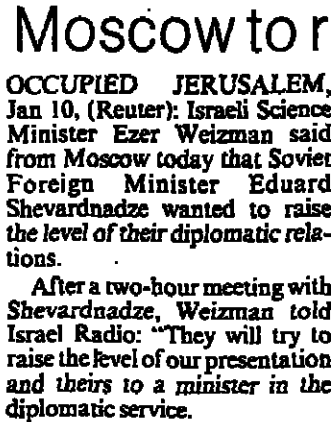
The tripartite meeting was scheduled to be held this month, but was postponed until February due to unresolved differences over the PLO role and the agenda for the proposed Israeli-Palestinian talks in Cairo.

The state of Judea, which has a lion of Judah as its symbol, is linked to Rabbi Meir Kahane whose anti-Arab Kach Party was banned from Israel's Parliament for espousing racist views.

The group favours forming an independent Jewish state in the West Bank if Israel gives up the occupied area in a settlement with Palestinians.

A Tel Aviv police spokeswoman said Ben-Horin and two youths active in the state of Judea were arrested outside a police station near Tel Aviv on suspicion of obstructing justice.

"Ben-Horin is also suspected of arson of the grapholite printing press," police spokeswoman Dalila Gilad said.



Ben Horin

## Moscow to raise Israel ties

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, Jan 10, (Reuters): Israeli Science Minister Ezer Weizman said from Moscow today that Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze wanted to raise the level of their diplomatic relations.

After a two-hour meeting with Shevardnadze, Weizman told Israeli Radio: "They will try to raise the level of our presentation and theirs to a minister in the diplomatic service."

"We spoke in parallel of the

## Israel, Unrwa row over uprising

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, Jan 10, (Reuters): Israel and the United Nations clashed yesterday over the role of a UN refugee agency in aiding Palestinians during the uprising in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Giorgio Giacomelli, commissioner-general of the UN Relief and Works Agency (Unrwa), said Israeli leaders expressed concern in talks that his organisation was exceeding its mandate by aiding non-refugees and running an undercover observer force.

"What I cannot share is the manifest intention of putting a squeeze on us, putting us under tutelage and control as if we were part of the (Israeli) civil administration," he told Reuters.

Israeli sources said Shmuel Goren, the Defence Ministry's top administrator for the occupied territories, denied trying to restrict Unrwa but insisted the agency must not exceed its mandate to provide humanitarian services for refugees.

Giacomelli said the UN Secretary-General and the General Assembly asked Unrwa to extend temporary exceptional assistance to all needy Palestinians during the emergency created by the 25-month-old uprising.

Similar measures had been taken during the Lebanese civil war and the 1970 Black September clashes in Jordan. The aid was mainly food rations and medical treatment for casualties of clashes with the Israeli army.

Giacomelli said his talks with Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin, Foreign Minister Moshe Arens and Goren had helped clear up "an accumulation of misunderstanding, suspicion and concern," over Unrwa's role.

Israeli officials have accused the agency of channelling aid to uprising activists on behalf of the PLO.

The Unrwa chief said he would accept money "even from the devil," but only to fund the agency's publicly approved humanitarian programme.

He said while Israel and the UN agency could not see eye-to-eye on all matters, they shared an interest in limiting the bloodshed, economic and human damage of the uprising.

Some 800,000 of the 1.75 million Palestinians in the occupied territories are refugees.

Giacomelli said Unrwa had to slash its operating budget of \$240 million by six per cent in real terms this year, mainly because of a cut in the contribution of the United States, the biggest donor.

US Secretary of Health Louis Sullivan said yesterday that standards of medical care were markedly lower in the occupied territories than in Israel.

Sullivan, on a visit to meet Israeli health officials, said the lower quality of Palestinian health care pre-dated the Israeli occupation of the Gaza Strip and the West Bank but new problems had arisen during the 25-month-old Palestinian revolt against Israeli rule.

"There is common recognition between the Israeli officials and the Palestinian officials that the health status of the Palestinians is not as good as that of the Israeli citizens," Sullivan told reporters.

Sullivan said Palestinian health officials told him during talks in Jerusalem that their infant mortality rate was higher than the Israeli rate and only a quarter of Palestinians had medical insurance, compared with 96 per cent of Israelis.



Army clears roadblock as other soldiers direct in the background. The roadblock was erected to make access to the village difficult. A United Nations vehicle (back left) wants to pass. (Reuters wirephoto)

## Afghan stamped for US visas

## France to open embassy

PARIS, Jan 10, (Agencies): France will reopen its embassy in Afghanistan, becoming the first Western power to do so since a US-led exodus just before the Soviet Army withdrew last year, a spokesman said today.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the embassy would be headed by a charge d'affaires. He said the diplomat had not yet been named and a date for the reopening was not set.

The announcement was first made yesterday in Islamabad by Edwige Avic, France's deputy foreign minister, who said the decision had "no political significance."

Speaking to reporters during an official visit, Mrs Avic said the decision should not be considered support for the existing Kabul government, and noted that Pakistan—a strong supporter of the anti-government rebels — has kept its Kabul embassy open.

The United States, Britain and other countries withdrew their diplomatic personnel from Kabul before the February 1989 withdrawal of Soviet forces, citing concern for safety if the capital was overrun by anti-government rebels.

In the past year, the Afghan government has shown greater staying power than expected by some Western diplomats. Although Kabul has come under rocket attacks, it has not proved especially dangerous for the diplomatic personnel who remained.

But Western countries were reluctant to return to Kabul in a move that could be seen as a concession that the US-backed rebels were not close to victory.

The New York Times newspaper reported today that the French decision to reopen its embassy was made despite US objections.

Reports that France was planning to return diplomats to Kabul came to light months ago, and Secretary of State James Baker raised the matter with Foreign Minister Roland Dumas in St Martin on Dec 16, the Times said.

"We explained that we don't recognise this government, that we consider it an illegitimate

government and we shouldn't be sending in diplomats because that gives the impression of business as usual," the newspaper quoted an official as saying.

Afghan rebels said today they fear that France's decision to reopen its embassy in Kabul will prompt other European countries to do the same.

For almost two weeks, Afghan war refugees living in camps along Pakistan's rugged frontier heard rumours that hundreds of planes were parked on the tarmac of Islamabad's international airport, waiting to take 60,000 refugees to the United States.

Pinning their hopes on what they had heard, hundreds boarded Pakistan's fleet of rickety old buses had arrived at the gates of the International Catholic Migration Commission. The organisation, under contract to the US State Department, processes refugee applications.

"They thought the airplanes were just waiting to take them away," said Eldon Hager, the commission's director in Islamabad.

**5,000 Iraqis killed:** Over 5,000 Iraqis were killed in traffic accidents in 1988, the government magazine Al-Fa reported on Wednesday.

It said 4,054 men were killed and 1,035 women. The 1988 total of 5,089 was 88 higher than the previous year. Figures for last year were not given. (Reuters)

**Diatribes evokes outrage:** Egypt's free-wheeling security chief is under fire from opposition parties and journalists for a diatribe in which he allegedly said all members of the Muslim Brotherhood "must be killed" and attacked government colleagues.

"I want to kill only one per cent of the population," Interior Minister Zaki Badr was quoted as saying.

The level of name-calling and vitriol that Badr's alleged comments unleashed in two newspapers is astonishing even for the Arab world's freest opposition press. (AP)

**Euphrates flow cut discussed:** Iraq's ruling Revolutionary Command Council and the leadership of the ruling Baath Party met on Wednesday to discuss Turkey's plan to interrupt the flow of water in the Euphrates River.

"Members of the RCC and the party's regional command ... were briefed on developments in the Euphrates River question and Turkey's intention to fill its Ataturk Dam," the official Iraqi News Agency said. (Reuters)

**Mahdi under house arrest:** Sudan's military government said it had moved former prime minister Sadeq Al Mahdi from prison and placed him under arrest as part of what it called its efforts to unite the country.

Mahdi was arrested on July 6 last year after a week on the run following a military coup in Khartoum led by General Omar Hassan Al Bashir. (Reuters)

**N. Yemen multi-party system:** North Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh said he will leave the decision on a multi-party system favoured by his neighbours in South Yemen until a referendum on a draft unified constitution, a newspaper reported Wednesday.

"The General Peoples Congress since inception in 1982 has grouped all political forces of different trends. At the time we discussed the issue of multiple parties versus a sole party ... and we all agreed that the GPC was the choice," Saleh said in an interview published in the Sharjah newspaper Al Khaleej. (AP)

**Ben Ali in contact:** Tunisian President Zine Al Abidine Ben Ali saw a Moroccan envoy and spoke to Libyan leader Muammar Khaddafi on Wednesday to pave the way for this month's Maghreb summit.

The official news agency TAP said Moroccan Interior Minister Dris Bassri saw Ben Ali and gave him a message from King Hassan. (Reuters)

**New managing editor named:** Israel's Jerusalem Post, where some 30 editors and reporters have been dismissed at their request over a dispute with the publisher, has appointed a new managing editor.

"I am not planning any policy changes. I am just holding the fort until a new editor is named," managing editor David Gross, who has worked for the post for nearly 40 years, told Reuters on Tuesday. (Reuters)

**Dams across the Nile**

**Egypt concerned**

CAIRO, Jan 10, (AP): Egypt is concerned about reports that Ethiopia has asked Israel to help it build dams across the Nile river.

"Egypt is aware that all parties have joint interests in the area," said a senior Foreign Ministry official.

He was referring to reports published in the opposition daily Al-Wafd claiming that Ethiopia has asked Israeli experts to study the possibility of building dams across the blue Nile, a branch of the Nile river running through Ethiopia.

**Yemeni army re-unification:** A plan to merge the armed forces of North and South Yemen has got under way in part of a re-unification programme agreed between Sanaa and Aden, South Yemeni defence minister said in Kuwait Wednesday.

He said the first part of the army re-unification plan had already been executed, with the armed forces of the two sides withdrawn from the joint borders back to their original positions. (Kuna)

**Vaezi in Moscow:** Iranian Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Mahmoud Vaezi met with Soviet Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati.

Official Soviet News Agency "Tass" said Vaezi conveyed to him a message from the Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati.

The officials discussed bilateral relations and current international and regional issues, focussing on the Iran-Iraq conflict. (Kuna)

**Uganda, Sudan to co-operate:** Uganda and Sudan have agreed to establish joint monitoring units to improve border security after an incursion by Sudanese troops into northern Uganda two weeks ago, state-run Radio Uganda said on Wednesday.

The Radio said Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni and a Sudanese delegation led by General Domitrie Kasinyano, a member of Sudan's ruling military council, agreed to set up the new border security mechanism at a meeting in Kampala on Tuesday. (Reuters)

**Ozal to meet Bush:** Turkish President Turgut Ozal will meet President George Bush in Washington on Jan 18 for talks that will cover a pro-Armenian bill in the US Congress that has angered Ankara.

Ozal will visit the United States for 11 days from Jan 16, during which he will have a medical check in Houston where he had heart surgery in February 1987, officials said on Wednesday.

Turkey is angry at a proposed congressional bill calling for a "national day of remembrance of the 15th anniversary of the Armenian genocide of 1915-23" and says its passage would sour relations between the two NATO allies. (Reuters)

## Tunisian ruling party accepts principles of reforming election system

TUNIS, Jan 10, (Reuters): Tunisia's ruling party, which holds all the seats in Parliament, yielded to opposition pressure yesterday and accepted the principles of reforming the electoral system and giving the opposition a voice in the office media.

Opposition leaders said they were pleased with the outcome of a meeting chaired by Prime Minister Hamed Karoui and attended by Abderrahim Zouari, secretary-general of the ruling Democratic Constitutional Union (RCD).

President Zine Al Abidine Ben Ali called the meeting of the so-called national pact council last week to deal with opposition

complaints that the democratic experiment he launched two years ago had come to a dead end.

Zouari told Reuters after more than three hours of talks in Karoui's office: "The council has come to the conclusion that one of the priorities is amending the electoral code and has decided to put the suggestion to President Ben Ali."

"We are proposing that political pluralism be introduced in the media, especially on the radio and television."

The electoral code, which favours large parties, and the ruling party's virtual monopoly of the state broadcasting

service have been the main targets of opposition complaints.

Three important political groups, the Movement of Democratic Socialists, the Tunisian Communist Party and the country's influential Islamic Movement, boycotted the meeting yesterday.

But two opposition leaders who did attend came out saying they felt further meetings would be worthwhile.

"Before the meeting I must admit I was a little anxious about the outcome but now I am very much encouraged," said Najib Chebbi of the leftist Progressive Socialist Rally.



EVENTS

# Soviet ballet dancers to perform in Kuwait

AFTER the successful performance of the Bolshoi ballet in Kuwait last year, Soviet Ballet returns with a brand new company featuring ballet stars from several noted Russian dance companies.

Thirty-four dancers from the Russian Ballet Company will give two performances on Feb 2 and 3 at the Andalus Cinema.

The Soviet ballet dancers will be in Kuwait as part of a Gulf tour that takes them to Qatar, Oman and the UAE.

The soloists are Vyacheslav Gordeev and Irina Lazareva, who belong to the world-renowned

Bolshoi group; Kaye Kyrb of the Estonia ballet company and Yana Kazantseva of the Russian Ballet Company of Moscow.

The Russian Ballet Company of Moscow is the youngest among the several ballet theatres in the Soviet Union. This company is noted for preserving the "heritage of the art" despite acquiring contemporary artistry and skills. It was founded in 1988 by Vyacheslav Gordeev, who believes in creating a balance between contemporary and classical dance.

The company's repertoire has been influenced by historic choreographic records from past

performances of the Russian and Soviet ballet periods. They were one of the first to perform the works of Blanche and Jose Lemon in the USSR.

The American press has acclaimed Gordeev as the "most artistic and elegant dancer from the Bolshoi."

Gordeev graduated from the Moscow Ballet Academy in 1968 and joined the Bolshoi Ballet as a soloist in the same year. In 1973, he won the title of the Lenin Komsomol and was named the "People's Artist" in 1984. From that date, he has been the driving force behind the Russian Ballet Company, touring several countries including Mexico, Portugal, India, Italy, France, West Germany and the US.

Gordeev has danced Siegfried in Swan Lake; the Prince in Nutcracker, Basil in Don Quixote

and Albert in Giselle.

Irina Lazareva was invited to join the Bolshoi company as a soloist. She is one of the few dancers who can dance almost all the classical solo numbers, including Giselle (Giselle); Princess Froline (Sleeping Beauty); the Spanish Doll (Nutcracker); and the Shepherdess (Spartacus). She is well-known for her modern ballet pieces such as Spring Waters and Mashkovsky's Waltz.

The soloist of the Estonian Ballet Theatre, Kaye Kyrb, won a gold medal at the All Soviet Ballet Competition in 1984. She has since won several awards, including the prestigious title of becoming the "People's Artist of Estonia."

Yana Kazantseva of the Russian Ballet Company of Moscow is also an award-winner and has

an extensive repertoire including most of the recognised classical pieces. Some of them will be performed in Kuwait.

In most countries, the company performs a full-length ballet, but in several cases they perform a series of pieces from various ballets. This will be done in Kuwait as well, and they are expected to perform excerpts from Tchaikovsky's "Sleeping Beauty," Pugn's Carnival in Venice and Esmeralde, Adan's Giselle, Drigo's Harlequinade and many others.

There will be two performances in Kuwait on Friday, Feb 2 (6 pm) and Saturday, Feb 3 (8 pm). The Friday show will commence at the earlier time of 6 pm so that school students can attend, said organiser Anant Kapadiya.

Ticket prices are KD 6, 9 and 15 and will shortly go on sale.



(Right): Principal soloists Gordeev and Irina  
Top: One of the ballet numbers



## WHAT'S ON

### ARTS

#### Photography and Oil painting classes

OIL painting classes beginning 15 January.  
Photography classes beginning 16 and 17 January.

8 week course, once a week 4:30 to 7:30 pm. For further details please call Ann Eid Tel. 2426135 or Yasmeen 5326833.

#### Tribal Rugs & Oriental Prints

THE Sultan Gallery will be holding a Tribal Rugs and Oriental Prints exhibition starting Saturday Dec 23 until Jan 15. On Saturday, the Gallery will be open from 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm. Else, it will be open from 9:30 am to 12:30 noon and 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm. For more information contact: 3421951.

#### Hobby centre

A NEW 8 week course in Jewellery and Design making. For more details call: Telephone: 5618847 or 5317354.

### SOCIAL

#### Ramada Al Salam

GRAND Indian Food Festival from January 21-26. Display stalls open to Indian companies and individuals. Contact Clifton or Siddiq on 4835344.

#### British Council

THE Scarlet and the Black - 137 min. Saturday, 13 Jan and Sunday, 14 Jan at 6:30 pm.

This is the remarkable story of an Irish priest, Monsignor Hugh O'Flaherty who founded an organisation to help escaping Allied prisoners of war. Features a brilliant cast: Gregory Peck, Christopher Plummer and John Gielgud. Admission is free but please telephone to reserve seats: 2515512, 2533204, 2533227.

Study the Humanities and Social Sciences in Britain. For more information on degree-level studies of these subjects, please visit The British Council Education Office on Monday and Tuesday, 15 and 16 January, 9:00 am to 12:30 pm and 5:00 to 8:00 pm.

#### Tivim Centre

"TIVIM Centre is pleased to announce the 3rd Annual 9-a-side Inter Village Football Tournament which will be held on the Sour grounds, Kuwait City, beginning March 27/28th 1990. For further information please contact organisers - 2441860 Casimiro.

#### The People's Trust Club

The People's Trust Club's get together which was to be held on Jan 11 has been cancelled. The club apologises for any inconvenience.

#### Like a Hurricane

SEVENTH Sky's upcoming Rock concert at Al Andalus cinema on 15th & 16th February, 1990. We are looking for voluntary helpers and also an additional male & female vocalist. Ring 5748476 or 2543219.

#### Konkani Drama

THE New Goans Overseas Association is pleased to announce Menino De Bandar's "Sonsarant Astana Dast" a Konkani play which will be held in the Indian Arts Circle (Funalees) on the 16th of February 1990. The cast all from Goa includes M. Boyer, Feloy, Josephine, Betty Alvares, Tita, Junior Rod, Carlos, Rosario Dias, C. D'Silva, John de Parra and Menino de Bandar.

#### Saaz Aur Awaz

FEB 2: Saaz Aur Awaz, one of the leading Indian musical groups of Kuwait present their fourth musical programme entitled Bhule Bise Gost. The show includes Hindi film songs at the Indian Arts Circle. Funalees on February 2, 1990. Passes will be available shortly.

#### Contact

THE next meeting of Contact, the ladies information group, will be held on January 13 at 10 am at the Messilah Beach Hotel. Their chef will be

giving a demonstration. Newcomers welcome. For further information call 5388105 or 4874513.

#### Kuwait Little Theatre

Kuwait Little Theatre, Ahmadi, are holding auditions for a comedy to be staged in the theatre in early March and directed by Dave Dorrington. The auditions will be held in the Theatre on 21 and 22 January at 8 pm. All those interested in auditioning are welcome. Those interested in helping backstage are also welcome to attend.

#### Caledonian Society

The Annual Burns Night Supper will be held at Messilah Beach Hotel on Thursday, February 1st. For further information and ticket reservation phone: 5335082, 5332235 or 3727691 ext. 253.

#### Adabi Digest

An Urdu monthly Adabi Digest (literary magazine) will be launched on Thursday, Jan 11, 8:30 pm at the Meridien Hotel. The magazine will be issued from Lahore, Pakistan. A mushaira (poetry session) will also be held.

### SPORTS

#### Daniella Dart

Tournament 1990  
The Dart Tournament for Danes will take place at the

Gazelle Club on Friday, Jan 26, starting at 2 pm (expected to finish at 8 pm). It is a family event featuring separate junior tournament, so don't leave the children at home. For further details and registration, please call Henrik Licht - 3727688 ext 246; or Bjorne Rasmussen - 3720137 before Saturday, Jan 20.

#### Rothmans Gold Cup Finals

THE finals of the Rothmans' Gold Cup Football Tournament organised by Salce United Sports Centre, the sports wing of the weekend club, will take place on the Sour Grounds on Friday, January 12 at 9:00 am. Between Incredible Sports Club and Goan Sporting. Aref Essa, manager of Rothmans, will give away the trophies. All are cordially invited.

### PRAYERS

Fajr	5:20 am
Zohr	11:56
Asr	2:49 pm
Maghreb	5:08
Isha	6:30

### FRIDAY

Fajr	5:20 am
Zohr	11:56
Asr	2:50 pm
Maghreb	5:09
Isha	6:31

## TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

### KTV 1

9:00 Opening and Holy Quran

9:15 Cartoons

9:45 Sabah Al Kher news

10:00 Magazine D'Actualite

10:30 Rejal Fil Masyada:

Arabic serial (part 4),

starring Muna Abdul

Ghani, Mohammed

Redha, Raja Al Jaddawi

11:30 The Open University:

Cultural programme

Sabah Al Kher news

12:00 Hwar Wa Nagham:

Local variety programme,

prepared by Jameel

Hamoud and presented by

Ameena Al Sharah

5:00 Breen: Cartoon serial

1:05 Min Ghair Kalam:

Variety programme

(part 2), presented by

Hassan Mustafa

2:00 Discovery: Cultural

programme (part 2)

3:00 Varieties

3:30 Liqa Al Khamees:

Variety programme,

prepared by Jameel

Hamoud and presented by

Ameena Al Sharah

5:00 Breen: Cartoon serial

5:30 Night chemists,

airlines and official

advertisements

6:00 Imam Mohammed

Abdoh: Historical

programme, presented

by Ali Hassan

8:00 Kul Al Foonoon:

Local programme,

prepared by Hassan

Awara, presented by

Rasha Majdi

8:30 Mas Al Islam:

Religious programme,

prepared and presented

by Dr Khaled Al

Mathkour

9:00 News in Arabic

9:45 Ghadan Tushroqo Al

Shams: Arabic serial

(part 10)

10:45 Al Mushaghabat Fi

Khatat: Arabic

feature film, starring

Farouq Al Fishawi,

Dalal Abdul Aziz,

Samah Anwar

12:20 Thursday late night

variety show

1:30 News summary

1:35 The World Today via

Satellite

1:50 Holy Quran and

Closedown

FRIDAY

9:00 The Opening and Holy

Quran

9:15 Cartoons

9:45 Cartoon serial (part 2)

10:15 Magazine D'Actualite

(repetition)

10:30 The Children Maga-

zine: Local children's

programme

11:00 Al Ahadeeth Al Maw-

doua: Religious pro-

gramme, presented by

Sheikh Salah Abu

Ismael

11:15 Live from the Grand

Mosque for the Friday

prayers and speeches.

12:25 Alwan: Variety

programme, prepared

by Mohammed Al

Fares and presented

by Fatema Abdul

Wahab

1:00 News Summary

1:05 The World Today via

Satellite (repetition)

1:20 Hadeeth Dinec:

Religious programme,

presented by Sheikh

Mohammed Metwalli

Al Sharawi

2:00 The Friday Break:

Local programme

4:00 Al Hob We Seneo.

5:00 Breen: Cartoon serial

5:30 Cartoons

5:45 Night chemists, air-

lines and official

advertisements

6:00 Kuwait Television in A

Week: Local pro-

gramme

6:30 Kuwait In A Week:

News programme

7:00 The Living Planet:

Cultural programme

(part 2)

8:00 The Family Pro-

gramme: Local

programme, prepared

by Tahani Al Bur-

toqalli, and presented

by Fatema Rashed.

8:45 Hadeeth Al Osboo:

Religious programme,

presented by Sheikh

Ali Al Jassar.

9:00 News in Arabic

9:45 Wrestling

10:30 Sports and Arts: Local

variety programme

(part 1), prepared by

Khalifeh Al Mtairi

and presented by Ibra-

him Al Harbi

11:30 News summary

11:35 The World Today via

Satellite

12:00 Holy Quran and

Closedown

FRIDAY

9:00 The Opening and Holy

Quran

9:15 Cartoons

9:45 Cartoon serial (part 2)

10:15 Magazine D'Actualite

(repetition)

10:30 The Children Maga-

zine: Local children's

programme

11:00 Wild America: On the

edge of the world. A vary

cunning and strange

animal called "the

water jackal"

7:30 My Secret Power

"Strange With....

John, an ex-prisoner,

plans to become

Andrew's friend so as

to become closer to Dr

Jef where he plans to

steal his "Laser

Gun"!!

8:00 News in English

8:30 Island Sons

9:30 The Bill Cosby Show.

Dr Huxable has to

convince his father to

attend the birth of his

grand daughter...

10:00 Most Real People. A

poetic competition...

How people take their

meals... woman and

sports...

10:30 Feature Film. The

Brinks Great Rob-

bery. Starring: Peter

Falk, Warren Oates.

Gena Rowlands. In

1944, amateur criminal

raids the vaults of a

Boston security com-

pany... The police has

to solve the mys-

tery....

12:00 News in Brief

12:15 Magazine D'Actualite

FRIDAY

6:00 Opening announce-

ment and Holy Quran

Bernstein Bears. A car-

toon series for children

6:30 Walt Disney Movie

"The Computer Wore

Tennis Shoes". After

an accident "Dixie"

is changed into a

human computer



# BUSINESS & FINANCE

## Sri Lankan trade team for Kuwait

A HIGH level trade delegation from Sri Lanka is due to arrive in Kuwait today, aiming to give new impetus to Sri Lankan industrial exports. It has been organised by the Sri Lanka Export Development Board in association with the Embassy of Sri Lanka in Kuwait.

The embassy in its press release thanked Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry for sponsoring the visit of the trade team and giving an opportunity to meet the officials of the Chamber.

The team consists of eight top Sri Lankan exporters of industrial products such as ready-made garments, biscuits, wall tiles, porcelain ware, medical rubber gloves, fibreglass boats and lithography and are coming to Kuwait as a part of their tour in the Middle East and after visiting UAE and Egypt.

The team will be in Kuwait for three days at the Hotel Ramada and will be leaving for Oman on Jan 14.

The names of the companies are as follows: Ceylon Biscuits Ltd, Candy Garments, Unicef Marketing Services Ltd, Dankotuwa Porcelain, Lanka Tiles Ltd, Nishi Shipyard Lanka (Pvt) Ltd, Hanwell Rubber Products Ltd, and Amico Industries.

The embassy has made necessary arrangements to enable them to meet Kuwait business officials. However, those who are interested in meeting the delegation should contact P.M.B. Subasinghe, commercial secretary of the Embassy of Sri Lanka or N. Madhawa, deputy director of Sri Lanka Export Development Board who is the leader of the team on Tel. 4837612 or 4844862.

## ABC to open branch in Amman

AMMAN, Jan 10 (Reuters): The Bahrain-based Arab Banking Corporation (ABC) will open its first branch in Jordan on Saturday, an official said today.

The new bank, named Arab Banking Corporation Jordan, has a paid up capital of 10 million dinars (\$15 million). It is a joint venture between ABC and Jordan's Housing Bank.

"ABC Jordan will begin its activities as a fully-fledged commercial bank on January 13," the official told Reuters.

ABC and the Housing Bank took over the financially-hit Jordan Securities Corporation, a local investment firm, and turned it into an ABC Jordan.

ABC owns 60 per cent of the shares. The Housing Bank has 25 per cent of the shares and the remainder are held by other shareholders.

Jordanian officials and bankers welcomed ABC's investment in the kingdom, whose economy is burdened by an \$8-billion foreign debt.

With the exception of ABC Jordan, there are 20 local, Arab and foreign banks operating in Jordan, Central Bank officials say.

## World Bank hikes rate

WASHINGTON, Jan 10 (UPI): The World Bank yesterday announced that its interest rate on outstanding loans to developing countries will rise to 7.75 per cent.

The rate will be applied during the first six months of the year, effective Jan 1.

During the second half of 1989, the World Bank applied rates of 7.75 and 7.73 per cent to its outstanding loans, according to the type of loan.

## Oil talks

NICOSIA, Jan 10 (Reuters): United Arab Emirates (UAE) Oil Minister Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan said today with Japanese diplomats in Abu Dhabi ahead of a Gulf tour by top Japanese oil officials.

The emirates news agency, monitored in Nicosia, said they discussed "oil relations" between the two countries.

## Announcement Music Examination

The Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music Theory examination: March 2nd. Entries closing date: Jan 14th. No late entries. For details contact Pauline Chen - Representative. Tel: 2424295 (after 3 pm)

# Seven oil firms to search for oil in Manila

MANILA, Jan 10, (Reuters): Seven foreign exploration firms are joining the search for oil in the Philippines this year and local officials hope higher crude prices will spark renewed interest in the country's exploration industry.

The Office of Energy Affairs (OEA) says 11 foreign and local oil consortia are scheduled to drill a total of eight offshore and four onshore wells in the Philippines in 1990.

While some foreign investors have taken a cautious stance after the failed coup last December, foreign oil exploration firms are pushing ahead

with their plans, energy officials said. "The key to all this is a continuous effort to drum up activities to show we have the potential," said OEA executive director Wenceslao de la Paz. "The trigger of course would be a major (oil) discovery," he said in a telephone interview.

There has been no major discovery since the late 1970s when there was a flurry of exploration activity, and as many as 20 wells were drilled annually. Oil exploration then tapered off and ground to a halt in 1985-86. Activity resumed in 1987 when four wells were

drilled followed by eight the following year, De La Paz said.

Last year, only eight of the planned 15 wells were actually drilled. Other sites needed further technical evaluation, the OEA said.

Of the eight, two were oil and gas discoveries which were temporarily plugged awaiting further tests while two were dry wells with gas shows which were later abandoned.

The rest are undergoing further tests while one, North Matinloc-3 well, is producing oil. Local oil production from five oil

fields off the coast of Palawan island amounted to about 1.6 million barrels in 1989, a level the government hopes would increase to 1.8 million this year.

Meanwhile the International Energy Agency (IEA), the West's energy "watchdog," predicted on Tuesday oil demand would rise this year and could hit an all-time high.

But forecasts in an IEA oil market report also suggested that Opec might need to show better output discipline than it has done recently if it wants to be sure of buoying up prices.

World crude prices have tumbled

this week after a strong rally caused by an icy December in North America, although they stayed firm on Tuesday in a range of \$19 to \$22 a barrel.

The IEA said oil consumption last year outside socialist countries — the Soviet Union, Eastern Europe and China — averaged 51.9 million barrels daily.

At least 12.5 million more may be added for the socialist countries, so the 1989 total roughly equals the previous record for world consumption of 64.5 million, in 1979, before the high Opec prices of that period depressed demand.

For the whole of 1990 the IEA now forecasts a further gain in demand of one million barrels daily of two per cent.

But it also sees a temporary seasonal dip in demand of three million from current levels during the period between the end of the northern winter and the peak summer holiday motoring period.

And supply from exporters who do not belong to the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec), which rose sharply in the 1980s, will remain steady.

## Kuwait Fund loan for Cairo

# Egypt's new dollar bonds sell slowly

CAIRO, Jan 10, (Agencies): Egypt has sold only 11 per cent of new dollar bonds issued in November, but was optimistic they would eventually find buyers and create a new capital market, a senior Egyptian banker said today.

Mahmoud Abdel Aziz, deputy chairman of the National Bank of Egypt, said about \$50 million worth of bonds had been sold out of a total 450 million available for subscription.

He told Reuters: Egypt was keen to test the market and wait for individual buyers, rather than persuade big-public sector banks to buy up the bonds.

"No public banks will go in and buy bonds. We want to leave room. It is a challenge to create a new market... it is a new concept in the creation of a capital market. To create a capital market takes time," he said.

The state-run National Invest-

ment Bank is offering the 10-year bonds to Egyptian and non-Egyptian investors with an issue price of 100 per cent and an interest rate of 0.5 per cent over Libor (London Interbank Offered Rate).

The plan is designed to channel savings, particularly of Egyptians working abroad, into investment in the country.

Aziz, a member of the committee responsible for the bonds, said money raised from the bonds would be used to finance projects which would generate foreign currency, like those in the export sector and tourism.

It was the first time since 1951 that bonds have been issued in Egypt for anything other than to raise government funds.

The government is near-bankrupt and has barely enough money to meet essential debt payments, let alone make new investments, foreign experts say.

But there is still a lot of money around, which is failing to get channelled through into investment.

Aziz said the banking sector was liquid in dollars with about \$12 billion held on deposit, but few people want to run the foreign exchange risk of borrowing in dollars.

The bond issue would mop up surplus dollars. People starting new projects could also use the bonds as a guarantee to borrow in Egyptian pounds.

Aziz said most bonds sales so far had been made locally. Egypt was also marketing the bonds in Gulf Arab states, hoping to attract savings of Egyptians working there along with local investors.

The bonds are exempt from any current or future taxes, and can be traded on the Cairo Stock Exchange after one year.

Aziz said they offered higher interest rates and greater flexibility than other instruments on the market. The highest available rate is about 1/8 or 1/16 per cent below Libor.

The bonds are guaranteed by the Central Bank of Egypt, with interest to be paid every six months.

Meanwhile, the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development will grant Egypt about \$47 million in loan which Cairo will use to finance upgrading an industrial plant.

A memo of understanding concerning the loan was signed here by the fund's director general Badr Al Humaidhi and Egyptian Industry Minister Mohammed Abdul-Wahab.

Humaidhi told Kuna later the Kuwait Fund will study details of the loan and said a final agreement was likely to be signed in March.

## Committees to review operations

# Fresh bid to boost stock trading

By Khaled Ahmad

MANAGEMENT of Kuwait Stock Exchange has set up a number of specialised committees to work out programmes and schedules for the implementation of recommendations in the economic report issued by the government early last month. Director general of the market, Hesham Al Oteibi said that the committees will prepare precise answers concerning programming the implementation of the recommendations relating to activating the stock market. Oteibi added that the committees will work out a plan and a timetable for application of recommendations in accordance with priorities.

He said that the committees will review all affairs relating to the functioning of the bourse including rules and regulations governing trading and other policies in a bid to reactivate them.

Oteibi announced that the market committee, of which he is the vice chairman, is now concentrating

its efforts on the new computerised system at the bourse, expected to be operated this year. A number of employees were sent to UK to receive training on the operation of the new computer system. Installation works of the new computer system, expected to actively upgrade trading, are underway.

Oteibi attributed the sluggish activity in trading at the bourse during the current month to the fact that dealers were waiting for companies to distribute their profits for the past year and announce their financial positions and operations. In addition, dealers have been in a state of observation waiting for further measures and steps in the local market.

The government-sponsored economic report included a number of recommendations that mainly concentrated at promoting trading at the bourse. It called for designing a future oriented trading system in the market and for speeding up the establishment of the investment funds and others.

# Bankers see lira tumbling against dollar

## Turkey keen to lower inflation

ANKARA, Jan 10, (Reuters): The Turkish lira is likely to tumble by about 25 per cent against the dollar in 1990 following a similar decline last year, Turkish bankers said today.

They expected an end-1990 rate of between 2,950 and 3,200 lira to the dollar, compared with 2,304 at end-1989 and 1,815 at the start of last year. The rate today was 2,135.

"We expect a drop of about (25 per cent) this year provided there are no undesirable developments on the political or economic fronts, such as a foreign trade or investment bottleneck," a treasurer at an Istanbul-based bank said.

A State-run bank official said last year's lira decline of 21.2 per cent relatively small after a 43.9 per cent fall in 1988, did not occur under free market conditions.

"I think it was administered by the Central Bank due to inflationary concerns," he said.

The government last year freed bank deposit rates to halt a run on the lira and thus keep inflation down. A government economist said he expected Ankara would pursue similar policies this year.

"There is no sign of an increase in exports. But if such a rise occurs the lira depreciation could (move closer to) the inflation rate," the bank official said.

The state planning organisation has forecast 54

per cent inflation this year after 68.8 per cent in 1989 and 75.2 per cent in 1988.

"The government is (keen to) lower inflation. They will probably pull it below 60 per cent in 1990," Ekren Onal, head of Faisal Finance House in Istanbul, told Reuters.

The lira rate is changed daily in Central Bank-managed sessions in which other banks give their bid/offer quotes for the dollar and the German mark. Most banks use a dollar/mark basket to compute quotes.

The Central Bank can force banks to change rates through frequent buying or selling during the sessions, bankers said.

They expected the lira's drop against the mark this year to be similar to 1989's 25.3 per cent drop. The mark opened 1990 at 1,354 lira after lira after 1,022 in January 1989 and 644 a year earlier.

Bankers said a major cause of inflation had been consistent national budget deficits. The deficit for calendar 1990 has been targeted at 10,500 billion lira (\$4.54 billion), up from 6,200 billion lira (2.68 billion) in 1989.

A Central Bank official said Ankara was drafting regulations to make the lira fully convertible. He gave no timespan.



Mohammed Al-Shroogi  
**Citibank gets regional chief**

CITIBANK N.A. Bahrain has announced that the institutional and investment banking activities in Bahrain will be combined under the direction of Mohammed Al Shroogi as the global finance business head for Kuwait, Qatar, Oman, Yemen and Saudi Arabia.

Al Shroogi is currently the general manager for Bahrain and Kuwait.

He will head the institutional and investment, offshore business activities managed in Bahrain and relating to these countries.

The consolidation of Citibank activities comes in recognition of the business potential in this region.

## Saudi riyal deposits steady

NICOSIA, Jan 10, (Reuters): Saudi riyal interbank deposits remained steady today in thin trade seen mainly in the short dates.

Dealers said there were no fresh factors to give the market direction. Spot-rates for value Saturday-Tuesday was quoted at 7-3/4, 1/4 per cent.

One-week was 8-1/8, 7-5/8 per cent. The one-month was steady at 8-1/16, 7-15/16, three-months at 8-1/8, eight and six-months at 8-3/16, 1/16.

The one-year was put at 8-1/4, eight per cent. The spot riyal cited to 3.7510/14 to the dollar but this mainly reflected technical adjustment ahead of the Gulf Friday weekend.

# Comecon agrees to move towards market-based trading system

SOFIA, Jan 10, (Reuters): The Soviet-led trading bloc Comecon agreed today to move towards a market-based system to replace four decades of rigid central planning and barter trade, delegates said.

After a two-day session, prime ministers of the 10 Comecon states decided to shift gradually towards trade based on convertible currency and world market prices, they said.

A special commission set up to draft changes to the Comecon statutes will make proposals next month and meet in Prague in mid-March to discuss them, Czechoslovak officials said.

Comecon, which comprises the seven Warsaw Pact nations plus Cuba, Mongolia and Vietnam, has until now decreed who exports what to whom and at what

price. Its accounting has been done in "transferable roubles" which have no value outside the bloc.

Bulgarian Deputy Prime Minister Georgi Parinski told reporters the step-by-step move towards hard currency and world prices, first proposed last month by Soviet Prime Minister Nikolai Ryzhkov, would get under way in 1991.

"The transition has to be gradual to take into account balance of payments shifts and other negative aspects... we are looking for a soft landing and not a hard landing," he said.

Ryzhkov told Soviet and Bulgarian journalists that Moscow had proposed a three-year transition period, but Czechoslovakia had suggested five years, reporters present said.

It was not clear whether any compromise had been reached.

The Comecon council meeting was the first since a tide of changes swept through Eastern Europe late last year, loosening the communist grip on power in the area and opening the way for Western-style democracy and economics.

"The political situation has changed sharply and there is broad unanimity among the European members that we have to move towards a market-type integration," Comecon executive committee chairman Andrei Lukonov of Bulgaria said.

In a closing speech, Bulgarian Prime Minister Georgi Atanasov said the session had lived up to predictions "that it will be a turning point in the whole development of

our organisation."

But Prime Minister Miklos Nemeth of Hungary, which will host the next prime ministerial session, said members still differed on exactly what new economic systems should be adopted.

"On many items our positions are not the same. We think monolithic unity will disappear," he told delegates.

Hard-line Cuba made clear that it had reservations.

"Introducing the market should in no way mean a move toward anarchy in production. Recognising a certain degree of private ownership does not mean this should have a main role in society," Vice President Carlos Rafael Rodriguez told the session on Tuesday.

## Garware Polyester wins top award

NEW DELHI, January 10: Garware Plastics and Polyester Ltd. has received the national award for indigenous developing technology for medical and industrial X-ray films.

The award was presented by Prof. M. G. K. Menon, union minister of state for science and technology, at the inaugural function of the Third National Conference on In-House R and D, organised jointly by the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, government of India, and the Confederation of Engineering Industry.

Up to now, only a few companies like Kodak, Du Pont, Agfa and Fuji had the technology for making X-ray films. Garware's indigenous development of this technology marks the first time that this technology has been developed in any Third World country.

The entire process, right from making the polyester chips, extruding the film base along with a blue dye to make it suitable for photographic use, manufacturing the silver halide emulsion used, and the coating process had been developed entirely in-house.

The medical fraternity all over the world prefers the new polyester-base film, as it has less water absorption and does not curl. Also, it makes for sharp, clear images.

Since the know-how for making polyester-base X-ray and graphic arts films is not currently available with anybody else in the country, this technological development represents an important substitution to the tune of Rs 100 crores, which would otherwise have had to be spent for importing the technology and know-how, as well as meeting training costs.

The company's other indigenous-developed polyester products, like metallised film used in packaging, coloured film for cable insulation, heat-sealable film, tracing and drafting films, as well as packaging laminates and films for dyeing guarantee zari yarn, have all found acceptance in overseas markets.

## Bonn growth hits 10-year high

FRANKFURT, Jan 10, (Reuters): The West German economy, Europe's largest, grew by four per cent in 1989, the strongest rate of expansion since the decade, the Federal Statistics Office said today.

Economists said the outlook was for continued expansion this year, particularly in view of the benefits which West Germany could reap from liberalisation in Eastern Europe.

They expect a 1990 growth rate of three to 3.5 per cent.

The 1989 growth in gross national product (GNP), the widest measure of economic output, was in line with economists' expectations and compared with 3.6 per cent in 1988.

"At the turn of the year commentators at home and abroad were agreed... in their positive, at times almost euphoric, assessment of the West German economic situation," Chancellor Helmut Kohl told a news conference after the data was released.

## Gold strengthens Dollar eases

LONDON, Jan 10, (UPI): The dollar closed lower against the major European currencies today. Gold was up.

The dollar closed lower in Frankfurt, at 1.6795 German marks against 1.6805 at Tuesday's close, and also was lower in Zurich at 1.5098 Swiss francs against 1.5275, in Paris at 5.6995 French francs against 5.7250, in Brussels at 35.09 Belgian francs against 35.27, and in Milan at 1,251.90 lire against 1,256.50.

Earlier in Milan, the dollar fixing reached its lowest rate since May 9, 1988.

In London, the pound closed over three-fourths of a cent higher at \$1.6615 against \$1.6535.

Gold closed higher in Zurich at \$409 per ounce against Tuesday's close at \$403.50 per ounce, and also was higher in London at 409.25 ounce against \$403.75 per ounce.

Silver closed higher in Zurich at \$5.30 per ounce against \$5.25 per ounce, but was lower in London at \$5.25 per ounce against \$5.29 per ounce.

In London, share prices were weak this afternoon in quiet cautious business as losses on Wall Street weighed on sentiment here, dealers said.

The US market suffered on fears of a disappointing round of fourth quarter US corporate earnings figures, dealers said.

The market here was worried about the outlook for Britain's economy after the next round of UK company results.

One strategist said, "we're getting perilously close to the release of final company results and people are worried we could have a few nasty surprises."

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## Merck and Philip most admired companies

NEW YORK, Jan 10, (AP): America's two most admired corporations are its biggest maker of pharmaceuticals and its largest producer of cigarettes, Fortune Magazine said today.

For Merck and Co., it was the fourth consecutive year the drug maker has topped the magazine's ranking of the most admired large companies in the United States.

Philip Morris Cos., the world's biggest consumer products company with a stable of brands that includes Marlboro cigarettes and Kraft Foods, improved to the No. 2 position from fourth last year.

The two companies stood out in a ranking of 305 companies based on a survey of more than 8,000 directors, the magazine said. The companies were rated in eight separate categories.

The biggest casualty on this year's list was Exxon Corp., which plummeted to No. 110. It was ranked sixth last year, before the Alaskan oil spill.

Philip Morris finished a close second and was cited as the best company in terms of its quality of management and its value as a long-term investment. The company's shares gave investors an average total return of 30.1 per cent a year from 1979 to 1989, the magazine said.

## Engineering giant for Gulf power show

CROMPTON Greaves, India's largest manufacturer of electrical engineering products, is among 19 first-time exhibitors lining up for Middle East Electricity '90 — the Gulf's premier showcase for the power industry.

The show, which opens next Monday at the Dubai World Trade Centre and lasts for four days, has attracted a record number of exhibitors with stand bookings virtual double those of 1988.

Crompton Greaves, which spent more than \$4 million on research and development last year, has worked its way into India's industrial records book by pioneering many of the country's engineering "firsts". These include, the first short circuit testing transformer to be built in the country, the first 220 KV transformer in the country, the first indigenous flame-proof motor to be used in the petroleum industry and 11 KV vacuum circuit breaker.

## Investors meet

KUWAIT, Jan 10, (Kuna): A meeting will be held in Cairo tomorrow to prepare for the fifth conference of Arab businessmen and investors, according to a statement by the organisers here yesterday.

The Kuwait-based Inter-Arab Investment Guaranty Corporation, one of the organisers, said the Cairo meeting would determine the date and venue of the conference as well as its agenda topics.

It recalled that during the fourth conference of Arab businessmen and investors, held in Tunis in November 1988, the Egyptian delegation has offered to host the conference.

The conference is co-sponsored by the Arab League, the Inter-Arab Investment Guaranty Corporation and the Arab General Union of Chambers of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture.

## Currency rates

KUWAIT, Jan 10, (Kuna): Following are the international currency rates as quoted by local banks and announced by the Central Bank of Kuwait today.

Currency	Buying	Selling
US dollar	0.29088	0.29203
Sterling	0.48224	0.48437
DM	0.17373	0.17460
S. Fr	0.19200	0.19289
F. Fr	0.05103	0.05126
Il.ira	0.0002323	0.0002335
Jap. yen	0.001962	0.001969
Bah. din	0.77156	0.77483
U.A.E. Dir.	0.07919	0.07953
S. riyal	0.07755	0.07788
O. riyal	0.07997	0.08023
Q. riyal	0.75547	0.75858

## Interest Rates

KUWAIT, Jan 10, (Kuna): Following are the average KID interest rates of local interbank transactions as reported by participants to Central Bank of Kuwait today.

Period	Bid	Offered
1 month	8-1/4	8-1/2
3 months	8-1/4	8-1/2
6 months	8-1/8	8-3/8
1 year	8-1/8	8-3/8

## EXCHANGE RATES

Indian rupee	0.017360
Sri Lankan rupee	0.007370
Pakistani rupee	0.013730
Bangladesh taka	0.008970
US dollar	29.1950
Pound sterling	48.5730
UAE dirham	0.79450
Deutsche mark	1.74600
Japanese yen	0.002017

# Thatcher forges ahead with bigger, more complex sell-offs

LONDON, Jan 10, (AP): Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher is forging ahead with bigger, more complex sell-offs of state-owned companies in a privatisation programme that has more than tripled the number of British shareholders.

Helped by the booming stock market of the 1980s, Margaret Thatcher's Conservative government has raised £33 billion (\$53 billion) by selling such industries and services as steel, gas and telecommunications. Next in line is electricity.

Not all the flotations have been successful, and Thatcher has faced a barrage of accusations that she is giving away the nation's assets. Harold Macmillan, the late Prime Minister, once likened it to an impoverished family selling off its heirlooms.

But privatisation has become one of the most striking features of Thatcher's

decade in office, and a powerful weapon in her crusade to bury British socialism.

The prime minister, who believes companies perform better in the private sector, has overseen the transformation of stodgy nationalised industries into thriving competitive businesses. A prime example is British Airways PLC, or BA, which, as the US magazine Business Week wrote, has been turned from "bloody awful" into "bloody awesome."

Thatcher's aim isn't just to resuscitate ailing industries, but also to create an army of small shareholders who, having tasted the thrills of the stock market, won't ever want to re-elect the socialist Labour Party.

Ten million Britons now own shares — roughly as many as belong to trade unions — and 13 per cent of the adult

population has bought into the privatised companies, according to treasury figures.

Thatcher has used the sales' revenue to convert national budget deficits into surpluses and to cut the income tax rate to just 40 per cent for top earners and 25 per cent for the rest, a post-World War II low.

Hugo Young, political columnist for the left-leaning Guardian newspaper, praises Thatcher for reducing the role of government in British life.

Whatever might be said about the way this was done, "Young wrote in "One of us," his Thatcher biography, "the gentlemen in Whitehall no longer ran the gas industry or telephone industry."

Privatisation has been so successful, its supporters say, that Britain has become an exporter of privatisation

know-how, copied by countries as diverse as Japan, Turkey, France and Chile.

But critics say Thatcher has become too radical during her third consecutive term, taking her privatisation programme too far.

They say the government is selling Britons what they already own as taxpayers, or underpricing shares to ensure success.

Particularly contentious is the sale of water and electricity, which critics say should remain state-owned, at least for reasons of national security.

Moreover, they say, many privatised industries remain monopolies, insufficiently regulated to protect consumers.

But investors have bought shares enthusiastically and generally have

profited. A shareholder who bought 100 British Gas shares in December 1986 could have sold them at a 34 per cent profit as soon as they began trading, or could have kept them and be 76 per cent richer today, plus dividends. Sweeteners included paying for the shares in installments, bonus shares or vouchers for free gas.

The one big flop was the sale of the government's one-third interest in British Petroleum Co. PLC. The £7.2-billion (\$12-billion) sale, the largest so far, coincided with the October 1987 stock markets crash and many shares were left in the hands of stockbrokers. Brokers later sold the shares probably at a loss, though the price wasn't disclosed. But BP's price has since risen.

The most recent sell-off, of the 10 water authorities of England and

Wales, was widely expected to fail, because the stock market nearly crashed last October and water seemed too vital a commodity to expose to market forces.

But the sale proved the second most popular privatisation after gas, drawing some 2.7 million applications for shares.

Sell-offs must be approved by parliament, but the Conservatives' large majority virtually assures assent. The government spent years and billions of pounds grooming its targets for the competitive world. It wrote off their debts, injected them with capital, closed plants and laid off workers.

The government, for instance, wrote off losses and spurred layoffs in British Steel Plc, once hailed by the Guinness Book of world records as running up the world's biggest-ever corporate loss.

## Pressures for mergers will grow

# Future brighter for Gulf banks in 1990s

BAHRAIN, Jan 10, (Reuters): The 1990s look rosier for Gulf-based banks, but bankers in the region say the market is still overcrowded and many of the miners are ill-equipped to deal with growing competition at home and abroad.

Business confidence will mend as long as the peace between Iran and Iraq holds and oil prices — the barometer of Gulf economies — don't collapse as they did in 1985-86, they say.

Local governments, still the region's main spenders, are bringing some planned industry projects out of mothballs.

But bankers say pressures for bank mergers will grow within the six-nation Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) as smaller banks find the going getting tougher.

Few local banks have the depth or experience to compete outside the region, they add.

"There will be a continuous flow of industrial projects into the market for the next three to five years which will give local banks in the region new opportunities for business," said Hassan Juman, general manager of National Bank of Bahrain.

"But I personally feel there is room for merging some of these banks, especially if we look at what's happening internationally — there are lots of duplications which cost money," he added.

GCC governments would not allow their own banks to go bankrupt but might enforce mergers, the bankers said.

Economists say domestic banks within the GCC — grouping Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates — have only just started to tap the immense potential of commercial and investment banking in the area.

Most have decided to target their own markets for growth, rather than risk the costly pitfalls of overseas expansion.

Consumer finance, Automated Teller Machines and traditional packaged and service products all have scope in a region where a preference for cash still leads to some hoarding of bank notes.

Lack of even such basic investment outlets as stocks and bonds means billions of dollars will go on being channelled out of the region. Gulf economists say it will be years before alternatives are available at home.

But many banks in Bahrain, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia are setting up private banking departments in a bid to snatch the wealth-management business away from foreign firms.

"It's a very tough market to break into because of the traditional relationship people have with Swiss and foreign bankers," National Bank of Kuwait assistant GM Ziad Takay said.

"Some wealthy Arab investors do not like the thought of their wealth being known or managed by others in the area — it's a private thing so out it goes," said one Western banker.

Bankers say the expertise of

big foreign investment houses will be a tough nut for Gulf banks to crack.

With the exception of the Bahrain-based Investcorp, no major institution in the Gulf has used the strategy of buying up undervalued companies overseas and packaging them into interesting investment products for Gulf customers.

"There will have to be more of that in the future and foreign banks are streets ahead... most Arab banks haven't got the transactional base to build on," one Western banker said.

Bankers predict foreign exchange will continue to be a major source of revenue for commercial and offshore banks in the area.

Trade finance is also a big earner but competition from major foreign firms is tough.

Bankers say they expect more asset-backed finance deals in the region in the next few years, mainly in aircraft and shipping as Gulf governments upgrade and expand their fleets.

But corporate lending opportunities are limited. Few private firms have survived the recession intact and banks which were badly hurt by non-performing loans in the mid-1980s are only willing to lend to the most successful firms.

The international syndication market is subdued and sovereign loans to GCC governments will be few and far between especially if oil prices continue to pick up, the bankers say.

## Nuclear power plan still on track

JURAGUA, Cuba, Jan 10, (Reuters): For admirers of Cuba's attractive Caribbean coastline of lush tropical vegetation and sparkling blue sea, the emerging steel and concrete frame of the island's first nuclear power plant is an eyesore.

But Cuban energy experts view it differently.

They see the plant being built at Juragua on Cuba's south coast as a guarantee of cheaper fuel bills and a solid basis for industrial development.

The Cuban government is pushing ahead with an ambitious nuclear power programme despite world concern about the risks of nuclear energy and worries about future economic links with the Soviet Union, which is supplying the nuclear technology.

"It's the most feasible option for us in the immediate future," chief nuclear technician Pedro Abigant told reporters who visited the plant, which dominates the skyline 11 km (seven miles) from the port city of Cienfuegos.

The plant, which will have four Soviet-designed pressurised water reactors, is the communist island's biggest development project, costing more than \$2.5 billion and financed under existing Cuban-Soviet co-operation accords.

Construction began seven years ago and 10,000 people are now working on the site and surrounding infrastructure.

All of the plant's parts, except for construction materials and a few minor items, have to be shipped from the Soviet Union.

Abigant said the first of Juragua's four reactors, each producing 417 megawatts of electric power, is due to start up in 1993, three years behind schedule. The remaining reactors will come on line at two-year intervals, with all four to be in operation by the year 2000.

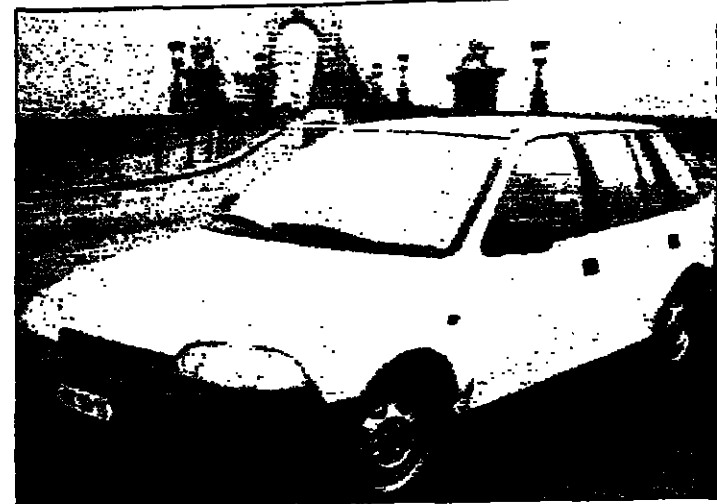
The first consignment of nuclear fuel, slightly enriched uranium 235, will arrive by sea from the Soviet Union shortly before the start-up of the first reactor, he said.

Cuba plans to build two more nuclear plants, one in eastern Holguin province and the other in the west of the island.

One indication of Cuba's commitment to nuclear power is the fact that President Fidel Castro's son is a Soviet-trained nuclear physicist and heads the country's Atomic Energy Commission.

Nuclear officials insist there has been no sign so far that expected disruptions in economic links with socialist Eastern Europe — the result of sweeping political and economic reforms there — will affect Cuba's nuclear energy programme, which depends on the Soviet Union and its allies for know-how and technology.

Castro has predicted trading difficulties with these socialist states — trade in which Cuba currently enjoys favourable terms — as they increasingly embrace market-oriented economic policies.



Suzuki Swift

A Suzuki "Swift" in central Budapest on Tuesday, when the Japanese car giant announced plans to build an assembly plant in Hungary. The first such move to Eastern Europe by any Western carmaker. (Reuters wirephoto)

## Japan imports

### Record number of cars

TOKYO, Jan 10, (AP): Japan imported a record 182,668 cars, trucks and buses in 1989, up 35.2 per cent from a year earlier, reflecting domestic business prosperity, the Japan Automobile Importers' Association said today.

It was the fourth consecutive year of increased imports, said Ken Kano, an association official. Passenger car imports totalled 180,424, up 35.1 per cent from 1988, and the foreign car market share in Japan grew from 3.8 per cent in 1988 to 4.5 per cent in 1989, Kano said.

A total of 5.56 million Japanese cars, trucks and buses were sold in Japan in 1989, up 11.9 per cent from a year earlier, the Japan Automobile Dealers Association says.

Kano said the imported passenger cars sold in Japan included 120,293 from West Germany, up 31.3 per cent; 19,084 from the United States, up 31.5 per cent; 14,519 from Britain, up 48.3 per cent; 10,487 from France, up 30.4 per cent; 4,504 from Italy, up 8.3 per cent, and 9,753 from Sweden, up 44.8 per cent, all compared with 1988.

## Bombay shares

Bombay Stock Exchange prices (Rs) Jan 10	Pr. Close	Open	Close	Pr. Close	Open	Close
ACC	343	341.50	343	Mad Coats	112	110
Alcon Chem	—	—	—	Mahindra	95	95
Alw Int	—	—	—	Max Share	18.35	18.35
Ani Fab	—	—	—	Mico	1120	1100
Ashok Ley	101	100	100	Milkfed	245	250
Asi Paint	251.25	248.75	248.75	Modi	60	57.50
Atlas Corp	46	46	45	MRF Ltd	285	285
Auto Corp	60	55	60	Muk Ind	149	151
Nat Ind	423.82	407.50	425.91	Nocel	1530	1585
BSE Index	303.75	307.50	398.75	Nat Org	—	—
Bar Rayon	807.50	805	805	Nippon	55.50	55
Blow Plast	—	—	—	Orkay	18.25	19
Bom Dye	220.50	225	221	Oswal Agro	49.50	48
BIS Bazar	104.50	103	104	Poico	—	—
Burr Wel	95	87.50	92.50	Pfizer	107	107.50
Canshare	—	—	—	Ponds	225	225.50
Can Ind	—	—	—	Prem Auto	69.50	69
Can Sps	3310	3275	3325	Ranbaxy	102.50	102.50
Can Sps	2720	2720	2735	Ray Wool	73.50	73
Can Sps	193.75	193.75	193.75	Reckitt	240	240
Cromi Gr	1000	990	990	Reliance	78	78
DCM	14.50	16	17	Sesa Co	93	93.50
Deer Fert	33.25	33.50	33.50	Shaw Wall	—	—
Dunlop	72	70	72	Shree Cam	—	—
El Hotels	65	63	64	Shri Fib	67	65
Esports	86.50	86	87.75	Sinemas	115	118
BSE Index	774.50	774	788	SKF	1500	1530
Bakayel	163.75	165	163.75	Spic	61	60.50
Essar Sps	34	33	34	St Mills	70	71
Food Sps	120	120	121.25	Tata Chem	129	130
Fortis	52.50	51.25	52.50	Tata Pow	585	587.50
Gas Poly	120	120	120	Teles	126	127
Glindia	125	122.50	123	Thapp Agro	—	—
GNFC	42.50	42.50	42.50	Tisco	113.50	114.50
Grasim	127	126.50	126	Vam Org	150	152.50
GS Sps	52	51.50	52	Vareli	23.75	25
GSFC	180	178.75	177.50	Vedanta	750	750
Guj Alki	85	84	86	Wimco	29.25	29
Guj Ind	18	17	18	Zenith	60	60
Hero Honda	1540	1530	1490	Zuari Agro	65	63
Hind Ciba	115.50	116	116			
Hind Lever	168.75	166.25	166.25			

Compiled by Kuwait-India International Exchange Co.

## Tokyo shares

Nikkei stock average: 37696.51 (-254.95)			
Volume: 500 mil shs			
Yen exchange rate: 145.30			
Name of stock	CI	Ca	
Advantest Corp	5630	+280	
Ajinomoto	2800	-30	
Alps Electric	2090	0	
Anadai	2030	-20	
Asahi Chem Ind	1200	-10	
Asahi Glass	2340	-30	
C. Itoh Co.	1170	-30	
Canon Inc.	1840	-30	
Casio Corp	1530	+10	
Dai Nippon Printing	2940	-20	
Daiichi Seiyaku	2850	+40	
Dainippon Paper	2840	+90	
Dainishiku Corp	1820	-30	
Epson	1830	+90	
Fanuc Ltd.	8370	+20	
Fuji Photo	4630	+130	
Fujitsu Ltd.	1520	+10	
Hitachi Credit	1980	-20	
Hitachi Koki	2070	+20	
Hitachi Ltd.	1840	-10	
Hitachi Metal	1650	-40	
Honda Motor	1830	-20	
ItoYokado Co	4500	0	
Kagawa Corp	2140	-20	
Kawasaki H I	1010	-50	
Kobe Cast Iron	1410	-10	
Kokusai Elec	4020	+90	
Komatsu Ltd.	1260	-50	
Kyocera Corp	1390	+330	
Marui	3420	-70	
Matsushita Ind	3320	-30	
Mai Electric	3350	-20	
Mazda M C	995	4	
Mitsubishi Corp	1820	-50	
Mitsubishi Estate	2370	-20	
Mitsubishi H I	1110	-40	
Mitsui R E	2740	-60	
Mitsui Bussan	1960	0	
Mitsui Fudos	4250	-40	
Mori Seiki Co.	4400	+120	
NBC Corp	1880	-40	
Nippon Chem	1620	+20	
Nippon Shin Co	1680	+10	
Nippon Steel Corp	750	-10	
Nippondenso	2440	-40	
Nittoku Corp	1620	-10	
Nomura Sec	3260	-90	
Okuma Mach	1790	-30	
Osaka Elec Co	2330	+20	
Owaird K Co.	6450	-50	
Orix Corp	6200	+110	
Pioneer Elec Co	2560	-10	
Reitown Look Inc	1030	0	
Sanyo Elec Co	6590	-40	
Secom Co., Ltd.	1840	-30	
ShinEisei Chem	1370	+20	
Shindengen Elec	8670	+50	
Sony Corp	1750	0	
Sunimoto Elec Ind.	820	-10	
Sumitomo Metal Ind	1750	-1	
Takeda Chemical	2350	0	
TDK Corp	6020	+260	
Tokyo Marine & Fire	2080	+20	
Tokyo Elec Power	3900	-70	
Tokyo Electron Ltd	3560	+20	
Tospan Printing	2190	0	
Tosny Ind Inc.	1020	+10	
Toshiba Corp	1230	-20	
Toyota Motor	2550	-10	
Yaskawa Electric	1250	-20	

Provided by Nomura Investment  
Banking (Middleast), Bahrain



## UK passports will become worthless once China takes over

## Hong Kong ethnic minorities facing statelessness

HONG KONG, (UPI): Kewalram Sital has considered himself a Briton since he traded his Indian nationality for a British passport almost 30 years ago. But when China regains control of Hong Kong in 1997, he may become stateless.

The 57-year-old businessman is one of some 6,000 ethnic minorities in Hong Kong, mostly Indians, now holding dependent territory passports, which will be recognised solely as travel documents in Hong Kong after 1997.

"The passports we are holding will become worthless in 1997," Sital said. "They carry no right of abode, no nationality. They are meaningless."

Nearly all of Hong Kong's 5.7 million residents are ethnic Chinese and will automatically be given Chinese nationality after the 1997 transition. But Beijing has said it will not grant Chinese citizenship or the right of abode in Hong Kong to non-Chinese.

Despite pledges from British Minister Margaret Thatcher to provide some kind of statehood for the group, Britain did not

include a special scheme for minorities in its recently announced nationality package.

The controversial package is designed to grant full United Kingdom citizenship to a total of about 250,000 of the colony's 3.5 million holders of British overseas passports.

The citizenship would be awarded to 50,000 heads of households in Hong Kong and their families, according to a point system ranking each applicant's importance in the colony.

Sital estimated only about 50 Indians would receive citizenship through the programme, designed to give the people who make Hong Kong run the confidence to

stay in the colony after 1997.

The nationality announcement sparked discontent among many Hong Kong leaders who had demanded Britain grant full citizenship to all the colony's British overseas passport holders. People in the Indian community say any British plans for a separate citizenship package for them were shelved to appease Hong Kong's ethnic Chinese.

"The Indian community is responsible for 10 per cent of Hong Kong's exports," Sital said. "Some companies have been here for three generations, yet after faithfully serving the British empire for so long, they do this to us. It is most regrettable."

Indian commissioner F K Arora said although India sympathises with the group it felt no responsibility to offer automatic Indian nationality.

"Under our laws, once someone takes the nationality of another country, he must renounce his Indian citizenship," Arora said. "If he wants to get his Indian statehood back, he can live in India for five years under a long-term visa then apply for citizenship."

"But the government would be under no obligation to approve the application. Britain should take them, they are her responsibility."

Indian community leaders say talks with mainland officials over right of abode in

Hong Kong for the group after 1997 have proved fruitless.

"They invited us all out to lunch and treated us very nicely," one said. "But they said that we were Britain's problem and told us not to involve them."

Sital has flown to the United Kingdom seven times since 1985 to lobby British lawmakers for the colony's Indian community.

He feels the chances are slim that Hong Kong's minorities will gain the right of abode in the United Kingdom, where tales of hundreds of thousands of Hong Kong Chinese seeking refuge after 1997 have alarmed a population not known for welcoming immigrants.

## Despite Jaya Bachchan's efforts to improve

## Children's films in a sorry state

By Firoze Rangaswalia

IN a country which produces an average of 800 films every year, there are hardly ten films made specially for the enjoyment and proper growth of children. The usual arguments are that there is no separate audience of kids. Parents don't like to go along and see these movies. There are no distributors to buy and no theatres to show these films. Perhaps, even our children have become so adultish and desensitised by commercial films that they think children's films to be childish.

So many ways can be found to expose children to Indian and international films meant for them. Chocolate and biscuit companies can sponsor morning or noon shows. Social service bodies and cultural busy-bodies can take some trouble to organise them. On TV, a special suitable hour should be kept apart, as it can show short films too. Ultimately it's the responsibility of the Children's Film Society, to produce many such films and convert halls into temporary theatres, with mobile projectors, for shows on holidays and weekends. These films can also be put on video.

The society got a shot-in-the-arm when Jaya (Bhadur) Bachchan, the popular "Guddi" of the screen, took over as the chairperson. Over past several years, bureaucrats had made a mess of it for personal gains. People like V. Shantaram, Sai Paranjpe, Kamini Kaushal, Amol Palekar could not do much with it and ended up with controversies and resignations. Professional directors adopted a careless approach, taking them as inferior films. Children's cinema became a Cinderella, without a prince charming coming up.

Jaya Bachchan made a bang by holding an international children's film festival to go with the late Pandit Nehru's birth centenary. Chacha Nehru was a lover of children. In fact he had spurred this movement and personally motivated producers K.A. Abbas, Kedar Sharma, V. Shantaram, Raj Kapoor etc. to do films for children, which had turned out to be good and award-winning. But then the movement withered, with the C.F.S.I. becoming a white elephant and now, Jaya has also resigned after announcing big plans.

Even Jaya had not been able to get at least four features and shorts made every year or any



Will Jaya Prada see her sister behind bars?

other notable films produced, though she said: "We have big plans. I cannot give out the names. It will happen in the natural course. But we have good film makers inquiring and wanting to make films for us."

If this had been done earlier, at least two or three excellent films by noted directors, could have been India's entries at the festival, along with 125 films from other countries. Even the main competition section had only four films from India. The inaugural film was an Indo-Mauritius co-production, "Ankur, Marina Aur Kabutar".

A wholly Indian film would have made a difference. There were three juries, including one chaired by South's Balu Mahendra and another consisting only of children themselves. Finally Greek, Czech and Korean films won top awards, while the Indian entry "Boy & Crocodile" by R. Whitaker got a special prize and best child actor award.

Five children had specially invited from each Indian region at the festival's expense, with Indian Airlines and Railways extending help. But it was a corny idea to call the child stars

of the past, like Tabassum, Master Mayur, Alankar, Sarika, Neetu Singh etc. to attend the inauguration. This is because most of today's stars have been popular child stars once. But they have merely acted like puppets and at times so precocious that they put adults to shame. Jaya herself started her career as a child with Satyajit Ray.

Jaya's enthusiasm over the festival (sixth in India) had spilled over in her talks: "I always wanted to do some good for our children. In the C.F.S.I. it is difficult, there are many stumbling blocks, yet something has been set afoot and we are on the right track. Our own children's films may not be technically excellent, but the themes are good... like 'Boy & Crocodile', where a boy saves a croc from the hands of villagers who feared it. In other countries, the technical results are superb but the themes are so irrelevant and sentimental. I would like to make an ideal children's film myself and C.F.S.I. will expand also to make films for all young people." Then why did Jaya give up the post?

One cannot agree with Jaya's views on kids seeing violence, when she says that there is nothing wrong in it, as present society and media are full of it and children have to grow with it. Perhaps she has "somebody" in mind who acts in violent movies. She also finds nothing wrong in parents and kids seeing the same commercial films, with the strange argument: "Intelligence of today's children should not be under-estimated".

Actually, everyone owes a social duty to children and they must promote the movement.

## Star slips

Kabir Bedi: Pooja Bedi is a sensible girl. But Aaditya thought her to be a fool. He played with her emotions. He wanted to row in two boats. When he was told to tread a single route, he quietly went back to his wife Zarina.

Waheeda Rehman: I see most of the new films. But they all look the same. They seem to be made in a great hurry. The stars rush up the work and do three shifts. So how can there be any stability?

Sangeeta Bhatnagar: Modelling is more difficult. We have to rely only on expressions, without dialogue, to sell a product. So transition to acting is easier. A model can become an easy and more successful actress to sell a film.

Sri Devi: It is the press which creates cock-fights between actresses. Otherwise there are no numbers and ratings. Everyone does her work as best she can. Hits and flops keep coming and going.

Shabana Azmi: I have rejected more than one hundred films, where the role was to play the subjugated woman to the lord and master. And there were also characters where the woman was over-smart and the wife even humiliated her husband. I can't accept both.

## Behind the screen

Even established directors have to bow down before the stars and obey their whims and fancies. The makers of "Seshnaag" admitted that Rekha wanted to wear sixty different costly dresses. A pity that none of them could charm the Bombay - Delhi distributors. On Rekha again, the "Sholey" Sipson, G.P. and Ramesh Sippy had to confess that the journalist in "Bhramacharya" had to be depicted as per her thinking and sense of dressing. Though she played an editor, she went around like a reporter with a shoulder-slung sack, that too on silk saris and a gun in tow. Perhaps, Rekha has seen the wrong kind of woman journalists. But Sippy and Sen could not stop her as she is too temperamental.

Jaya Prada has always kept her brothers and sisters, as if they had a film life and a personal life of their own. That's at least better than what Farha did with Sibling Taboo. But recent facts have thrown a spanner in Jaya's wheel. Her sister Soundarya got trapped in a case of economic crime because Jaya had been stacking got trapped in a case of economic crime because Jaya had been stacking away black money in her name. Of course they can always pay the fine and get away but there is a jail sentence too. If the appeal fails and the poor woman goes to jail, then Jaya will have indeed much to answer for.

Poor Deepak Parashar was pulled out of the deep freezer to be the chief guest at a fashion show in Poona. The organisers were so erratic that they did not even catch his name properly and kept calling him Deepak Prasad throughout the show. While he was reeling under his new name, the office-bearers pulled out



Sunny Deol on the cross-roads to fame.

another gaffe. They called him the "former Miss India". Since boys and girls were involved in the present contest and since Deepak's entity has been a matter of controversy in the gossip press, it became more embarrassing. And all that poor Deepak could do was to keep smiling throughout, though swearing under the lips never to go to small towns.

## Star interview

Samy Deol

Sunny has gone through both ups and downs in his short career till now. He has risen from flops and again fallen into them. At a recent shooting, he spontaneously answered some of our questions on his career graph.

Q. After "Betaab" you had again to wait for a bit till "Sohni Mahiwal". How do you manage to recover from so many failures?

A. I don't know. It is all God's grace. My career has always been like that. The line rises, then falls steeply and then rises again.

Q. The recent "Tridev" has done you a lot of good?

A. Yes, but it was followed by "Nigahen" not running well. Anyway we never expected it to be another "Nagina". But at least it could have gone ten weeks. Anyway this keeps happening. We put so much in "Yateem" and yet the result was almost zero. It was our own production. Then "Paap Ki Duniya" clicked and I popped up again.

Q. Which were the other flops that hurt you?

A. Well, "Sultaanat", "Ram Avtar", "Vardi", "Joshi-hey". If they had run, things would have been quite different.

Q. You mean you don't have enough films?

A. Oh no. I have more than the



Liberated ladies: Pooja Bedi (right) with Salma Agha



A scene from 'Bay and Crocodile'.

required twelve. "Chaal-baaz", "Ghayaal", "Aftab", "Benaqab", "Krodh", "Aajka Ghulam", "Yodha", "Shankar", "Vishnu Devaa", "Aag Ka Gola", "Farz Apna Apna", "Majboor", "Guna Chela", "Narainaha", "Gunah", "Champion", "Izzat ki Roti", "Veerta" etc.

Q. And "Tridev" must have benefited you even more?

A. No, the star ceiling comes in the way. I can't have more than a dozen films at a time. So some will have to wait. Even our home production "Ghayaal" has been delayed. People don't realise that. They think stars go slow only on other producers' films. But yes, "Tridev" has brought a lot of personal fan following. That benefit is there.

Q. Are you becoming more popular than papa Dharm?

A. For heaven's sake no, don't

say that. Dharm-ji is great in his way. Recently we had gone abroad for shows. They recognised and applauded me. But for papa there was a regular craze. Even he was taken by surprise.

Q. How do you visualise your future? Any ambitions?

A. Work will go on, so long as films are made. I have made enough name to last at least for a few more years. Ambitions? Yes, I would love to play exciting unusual roles, as done by Gene Wilder, Dustin Hoffman and the earlier Omar Sharif.

Q. Life on the home front?

A. My wife Pooja understands me and also the peculiar demands made by an actor's life. We have no differences. She ignores rumours. I have stopped caring also about being linked with a particular actress. It is like making mountains out of mole-hills.

## Owner of Pendragon castle stakes claim

## King Arthur's birthplace

RAVENSTONEDALE, England, (Reuters): A ruined castle in the windswept fells of northern England may mark the birthplace of King Arthur, its owner believes.

Farmer Raven Frankland has spent nearly 30 years painstakingly restoring Pendragon castle since buying it at auction for a bargain price in 1963.

Amid the tangle of fact and myth surrounding Arthur, he believes Pendragon's claim to the legend is as strong as anywhere else's.

"It's the legendary home of Uther Pendragon, father of King Arthur," Frankland said. "I think it's the only place that claims to be the residence of Arthur's father."

Sheep graze on the banks of the River Eden beside the ruined walls of present-day Pendragon, set in the shadow of steep fells in the northern county of Cumbria.

The remains date from around 1170, when a Norman castle was built on this spot. But Frankland believes the artificial mound on which it stands dates from Roman times, when it may have served as a signal station.

He thinks the ancient British King Uther Pendragon may have built his own wooden residence on the existing mound after the Romans withdrew from Britain in the fifth century.

Hard evidence of an Arthurian connection is scarce. But the fact that the Norman castle retained the name Pendragon bears witness to the strength of the legend, as does the local folklore associated with the castle.

One local rhyme, Uther may have tried unsuc-

cessfully to divert the nearby River Eden to flow into the castle moat.

"Let Uther Pendragon do what he can Eden will run where Eden ran."

Scholars have worked for centuries to unscramble fact from fiction and uncover the truth about King Arthur and the Knights of his round table. Many places, especially in Cornwall and other parts of southwest England, claim links with his exploits.

Arthur may have been a general who fought successful battles against the invading Saxons from the east all the way up and down the western side of the country," Frankland said.

Two US scholars last year pinpointed a site near Stirling in central Scotland as the probable site for Arthur's round table, which they claimed was not in fact a table but a circular meeting hall used by the king and his knights.

One of the two, Dr Norma Goodrich, agreed Pendragon castle seemed a plausible location for Arthur's birthplace. "Arthur really was born right around northern England or within a very short distance of Hadrian's wall and Carlisle," she believes.

The name Pendragon refers to a banner designed by the magician Merlin and carried by Uther into battle, Goodrich said.

"He made a banner in the shape of a dragon. It was a long pennant and had a tail of fire so that the man who fought under the banner was called the dragon — the man you'd better be scared of. It means head dragon, commander."

Uther died in battle against the Saxons

when Arthur was still a boy, the story goes. The future king was brought up by Merlin until he proved his royal blood by drawing a sword from a stone anvil and was elected king at the age of 15.

Frankland, a farmer and local councillor who works on the castle in his spare time, is well used to journalists' questions about the chances of inhearing Excalibur, Arthur's famous sword, or other finds that would substantiate the legend.

"The chances are extremely slim but of course it doesn't do to say that they're nil. It would only be if something of precious metal or bronze were to be lost... timber, leather, iron all disappear, especially in this wet climate," he said.

Frankland, whose father was a passionate Arthurian enthusiast, jumped at the chance to buy Pendragon when it came up for auction in 1963. He paid just £525 (\$860).

The castle is closed to the public, but scholars and historians visit regularly, as do less welcome guests.

"We were worried by the fact that the tourist authorities put out a statement that there was a secret room with buried treasure, which of course is absolute nonsense, and we did find that in the unopened vault somebody had been quarrying away the wall to try to get in," Frankland said.

Norman barrel vaults, stone arches and large portions of the walls still stand, despite centuries of plundering when the castle was used as a source of stone for local buildings.

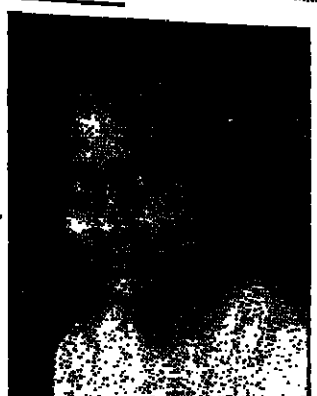


The ruined castle of Pendragon as it was when it was bought by Frankland in 1963.

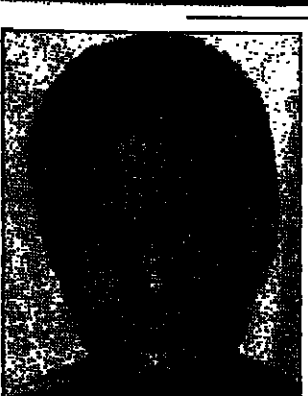
(Reuters wirephoto)



## Happy birthday



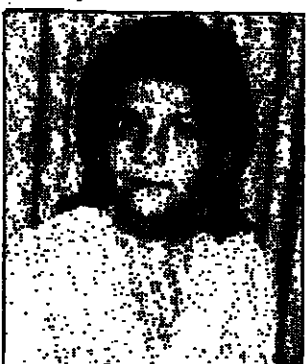
Samyukta Bhowmick turned 9 on January 8



Abhinav Malhotra turns 8 on January 14



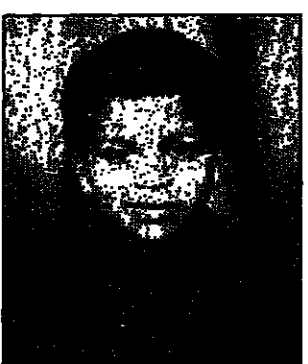
Biny Sara George turns 10 today, January 11



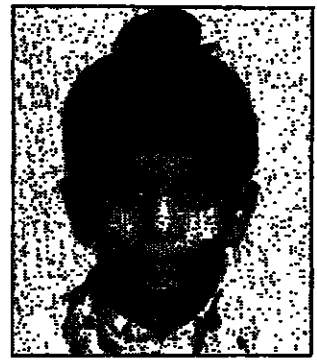
Goushiya Abdul Ganim turns 8 today, January 11



Anna Mendonca turns 4 on January 13



Faraz Siddiqui turns 5 on January 11



Puneet Singh Chadha turns 5 on January 13



Mirza Baig on December 21

## Join the dots



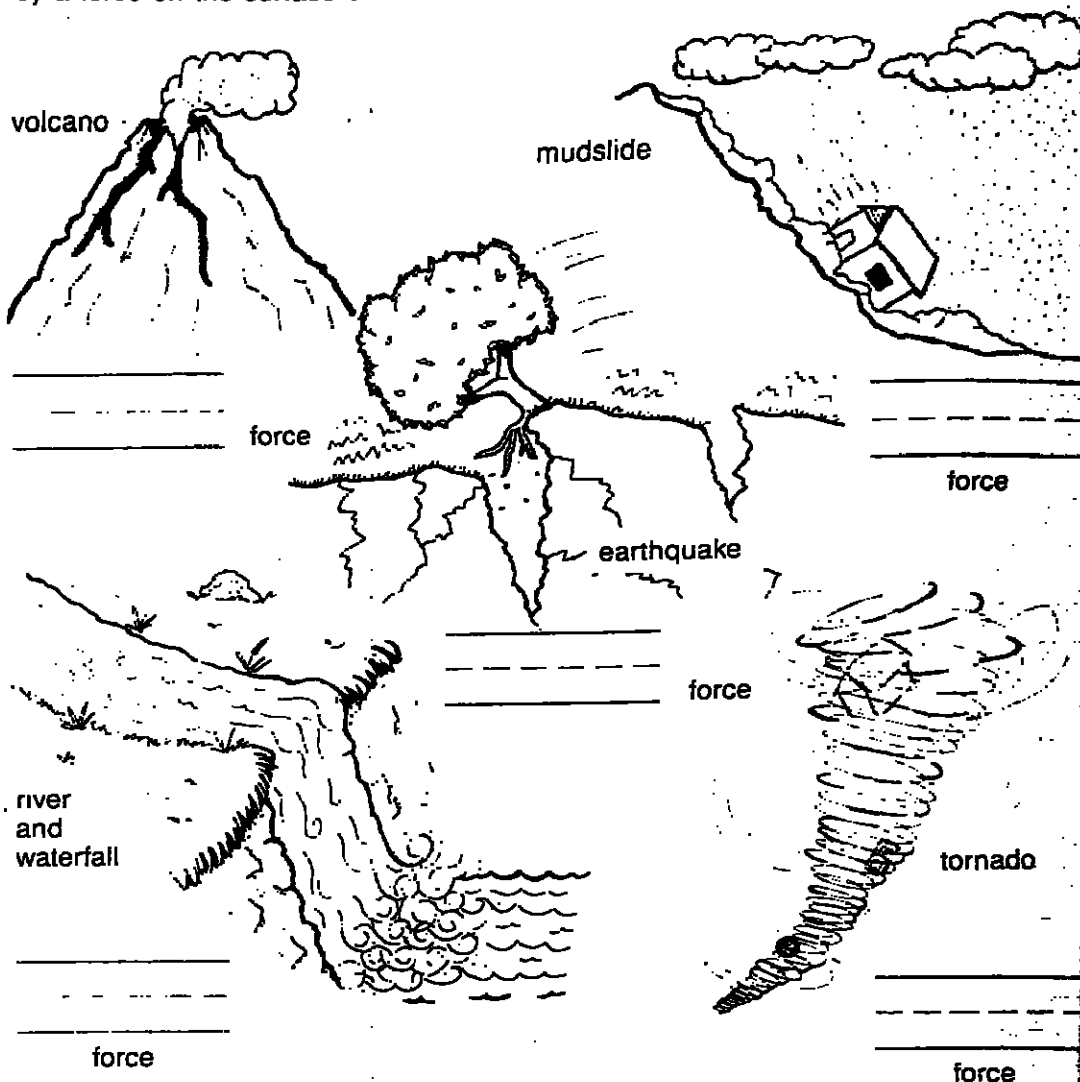
What is Leena wrapping?

Zahed M. Ali

## How Does The Earth Change?

The Earth is always changing. Forces inside the Earth make it change. Forces on the surface of the Earth make it change, too.

Look at each picture. Write **inside** if you think the change is caused by a force inside the Earth. Write **surface** if you think the change is caused by a force on the surface of the Earth. Then, color the pictures.



What is red, has bumps and a horse and lives on the prairie?  
The Lone Raspberry.

What is pretty, has big teeth and flies?  
A killer butterfly.

What did the Pink Panther say when he stepped on the ant?  
(Sing 'Pink Panther tune') 'Dead-ant, dead-ant, dead-ant-dead-ant-dead-ant...'

## Just for laughs!

Which chesnut invaded Britain?  
William the Conker.

What did one tonsil say to the other tonsil?  
'Get dressed - the doctor's taking us out tonight.'

What did Batman's mother say when she wanted to call him for lunch?  
(Sing) 'Dinner-dinner-dinner-dinner, dinner-dinner-dinner-dinner, BAT-MAN!'

What do you eat somewhere over the rainbow?  
Way up pie. (Way up high.)

What goes tick-tick woof-woof?  
A watchdog.

## Variety

## Oldest living person record puzzles

NEW YORK, (AP): Of all the feats in the Guinness Book of World Records, being the "oldest living person" is perhaps the most tantalizing and the most open to dispute.

"No single subject is more obscured by vanity, deceit, falsehood and deliberate fraud than the extremes of human longevity," the Guinness editors assert, noting hundreds of claims of people over 100 and some, "insulting to the intelligence," of people living into their third centuries.

Yet few claims are harder to prove than extreme longevity — after all, no one else who's alive today was alive when the oldest old were born.

That is true of Carrie White of Palatka, Florida, and Jackson Pollock of Milledgeville, Georgia. The 1990 Guinness book recognizes Miss White as the oldest, at 115. But since that book went to press, Pollock has emerged with the claim that he is 123. Guinness is still awaiting proof.

In Carrie White's case, there is fairly persuasive evidence she is 115; the search for Pollock's past is fascinating but as yet inconclusive.

Miss White lives at the Putnam Memorial Nursing Home, where she likes to attend church and sing sessions. She is in good health, though she doesn't seem to understand the fuss over her age and refuses to talk about her past.

Hers is not a happy story, from what little is known. She is said to have been born Nov. 18, 1874, in Gadsden County, Florida.

As a young woman, she married John White, who was either a blacksmith or a farmer, and on the day after her 35th birthday, in 1909, he committed her to the Florida State Hospital for the mentally ill at Chattahoochee. Her diagnosis was "post-tubercular psychosis," and she remained there until she was, according to her records, 110.

Miss White's claim to longevity rests mainly on her medical records, which are unusual since they span so much of her life. The only possibility for fraud would be if she or her husband had lied about her age when she was committed — a possibility, certainly, but one Guinness considers unlikely.

There is no similar documentation for Jackson Pollock's life. Pollock, a tall, gangly man with a taste for Prince Albert tobacco,

## Not a big deal for Jackson Pollock

## Going strong at '123'

MILLEDGEVILLE, Georgia, (AP): It's hard to know what to expect when you're being ushered into a hospital ward to meet the self-proclaimed oldest man in the world.

You fear he'll be in worse shape than the other patients, that you'll be intruding.

Nope.

Jackson Pollock, who claims to be 123, is 6-foot-9 (2.05 metres) tall, with cottony white hair. He's a healthy man, especially for someone who's 123. He likes starched shirts, hearty breakfasts and smoking a pipe, detests the hospital where he lives and chats happily with people who stop by to see him.

He even has his jokes down pat.

How old are you, Mr. Pollock?

"I'm 510 now," he says.

The Guinness Book of World Records lists Carrie White of Palatka, Florida, as the "oldest living person," at 115. Pollock insists he's eight years older.

says he was born Christmas Day 1866, served in the Spanish-American war and World War I and loaded mail and checked railroad baggage in Cleveland and New York.

He has lived in the Central State Hospital in Milledgeville since 1972.

Pollock's claim is based almost solely on his own account; Guinness, for now, remains doubtful, said editor Donald McFarlan. The book lists Shigechiyo Izumi of Japan as the person who lived to the oldest age ever documented — 120 years, 237 days, based on census records.

But even that documentation isn't good enough for some scientists, who say it's just too unlikely that a human being could live that long.

"I don't know a single serious gerontologist in the world who believes these claims of people who are over 115," said Dr. Leonard Hayflick, professor of anatomy at the University of California at San Francisco. "As

far as we know, the human lifespan... has not changed in the past 100,000 years."

From time to time, claims have surfaced of extraordinary groups of people who have lived well into their 130s, 140s, 150s and higher. One such group was said to live in the Caucasus mountains of the Soviet Union; another in a remote area of Ecuador. In each case, experts say, the claims proved to be lies.

The motives vary, but include draft dodging, national pride, tourism and simple boastfulness.

Scientists say humans just aren't built to last that long, and they dismiss the notion that the human lifespan is getting longer.

The world's oldest twins, Allie Hill and Maggie Lambeth of Denton, North Carolina, are both ill and won't be able to celebrate their 106th birthday anniversary together on Saturday.

Mrs. Hill is in critical condition, having apparently suffered a stroke in December, according

working years on the railroads. He was in the army during the Spanish-American war and again during World War I, when he went to England and Germany.

In his younger days, Pollock enjoyed going to church about as much anything. "I'd sit down and enjoy myself; it's the best fun you can have."

He loathes hospital food, but every day enjoys a special breakfast of two eggs, two pieces of sausage, two helping of grits and two cups of scalding hot coffee.

He never drank, but says he's smoked for 117 years — Prince Albert tobacco only, please. He wears crisply starched khakis and silk socks and spends most of his days — and nights — reclining in his big leather easy chair.

And no, he doesn't have any arcane tips on how to live to be 123.

"Trust in God, and he'll pull you through. Just trust in God."

Pollock spent most of his

to family members. Guinness editors accept his birthdate of Jan. 13, 1864 as authentic.

"I think there will be a time when 100 years old will be very common," said Dr. Edward Schneider, dean of the Andrus Gerontology Research Centre at the University of Southern California. "I don't know about 110 but 100 will be common."

Beyond that, gerontologists say, what's the point? We all want eternal youth, but do we really want eternal age? The very old, the experts say, are rarely as interested in immortality as are younger people.

Florence Knapp of Philadelphia lived to 114 and was, for a time, considered the world's oldest person.

"I think she could never understand why she was allowed to live so long," her niece, Ruth Oberholzer, said after her death.

"One time she said that she feels like she might have been bad and this was God's way of punishing her."



## Hippo-sized smooch

Right in the middle of a cold snap, these two hippopotamuses at Madrid's zoo seem to have early spring fever on a cold morning. After a few smooches the happy muddy pair swam away from each other. (Reuter wirephoto)

## Unlikely to show up on the road

## Electric cars on the test track

DETROIT, (Reuter): The electric car is out of the laboratory and on the test track, but it's not likely to show up on the road just yet, industry executives say.

The chairman of Ford Motor Co has driven one and likes it. General Motors Corp has built one that rivals petrol-powered vehicles. Chrysler Corp is also working on an electric vehicle.

But the American cars and vans in showrooms during the 1990s will probably still rely heavily on the same internal combustion technology used since the invention of the automobile.

GM revived interest in the concept last week when it unveiled the Impact, a car capable of reaching speeds of 160 kph (100 mph) on an 1,900 kg (870-pound) battery pack. It beat a Mazda Miata sports car in a zero-to-95 kph (zero-to-60 mph) acceleration test, the company said.

However, despite the potential energy and clean air benefits, GM said it had no plans to mass market the vehicle.

One problem is that the amount of electricity needed to recharge the batteries of a mass-produced electric car could lead to air pollution problems from coal-fired power plants that would rival the smog troubles

generated by conventional cars.

GM chairman Roger Smith suggested that a primary source of clean energy will have to be found before the car can be made practical.

"I think we'll still playing around with the electric car through the 1990s," said Neil Walling, director of advanced and international designs for Chrysler, which has been working with the city of Los Angeles on an electric vehicle.

He said the industry may be able to mass produce such a vehicle by the end of the decade but it may take incentives such as tax breaks, special parking and vehicle lanes for electric cars to lure the consumers.

Ford chairman Donald Petersen told reporters that his company has developed an electric caravan designed for city delivery use.

"I'm extraordinarily pleased with the progress they (Ford engineers) are making. I think they have come to new levels in terms of efficiency of transmitting electric power to the vehicle," he said.

"I drove it on test track. It's a very easy car to drive... it's something that should be worked on. We are working on it. We see it having its first real application for city delivery," Petersen said.

If there are changes in basic technology in the offing, one may be the introduction of the two-stroke engine in cars built and sold in the United States.

The engine — which fires twice as fast as the traditional four-stroke engine and thus can deliver the same power in half the engine space — has been an outcast in this country because of the air pollution it produces.

However, recent changes in technology may correct that. The consumer probably won't notice much difference, Walling said, except that two-stroke engine cars will have a storage compartment in both front and back because the engine takes up so little room.

Many of the manufacturers showing their vehicles at the North American international auto show in Detroit last week said the cars of the 1990s will be shaped by changes in technology that will assure quality.

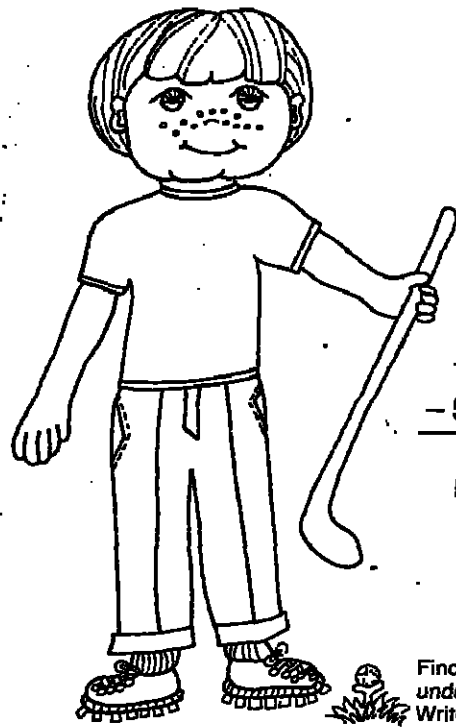
Ford said one redesigned plant producing its Escort model will use nearly 100 per cent automation for body welding, with sensitive electronic monitors that shut the line down if a misalignment is detected.

If the experimental cars being shown at the show give any clue to the future, it is one with more gadgets and racy, sports-style designs.

مكتبة الأمل



## Golfing Secret Message



659 -131	763 -101	953 -140	738 -304
a	d	e	f
973 -512	752 -610	947 -612	628 -104
g	h	i	l
783 -510	968 -214	938 -105	675 -251
n	o	r	s
953 -111	867 -132	986 -143	
t	u	y	

Find the answers to the problems above. Each sum has a letter under it. Match these answers and letters to the boxes below. Write the letter matching each sum in the given box. What is the golfing secret message?

335		461	754	524	434	813	662
813	335	461	142	842	813	813	273
142	754	524	813	424		754	273
424	528	842	735	833	662	528	843

## Young poet

## Life

Life is tough,  
And full of worries  
Life is swift  
And in great hurry

Hours run like minutes,  
In these days  
But "Who cares for time?"  
Some people say

For teenagers life is full of activities and fun,  
For warriors life is full of missiles and guns,  
And for parents life is full of daughters and sons

For everyone life is not the same,  
'Cause, not everybody considers life as a game.

For some people who are deaf, blind and lame,  
Life feels to them like a curse or a shame.

But don't be sad for such a thing everyday,  
Think about those who loose their lives in a sudden day,  
And when you think of the gifts you still have,  
Then I guess your sorrows will go away.

Souhair Butt.

## Friends

Friends who love you,  
Friends who care,  
Are not found in this world, everywhere.

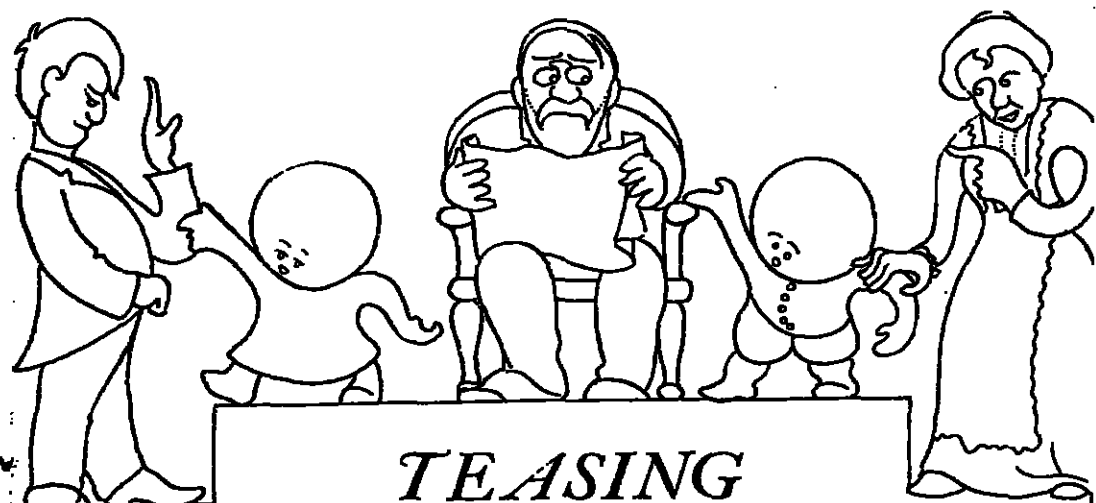
Friends are meant to help each other,  
Friends can be like sisters and brothers.

True friends are so rare and precious,  
So lovely and gracious,  
And when you are lonely and sad,  
Friends are the ones to cheer you up  
And make you glad

But what's the use, if you don't trust a friend  
Then I guess, you'll have a broken heart that  
will never mend

Souhair Butt.

## The Goops



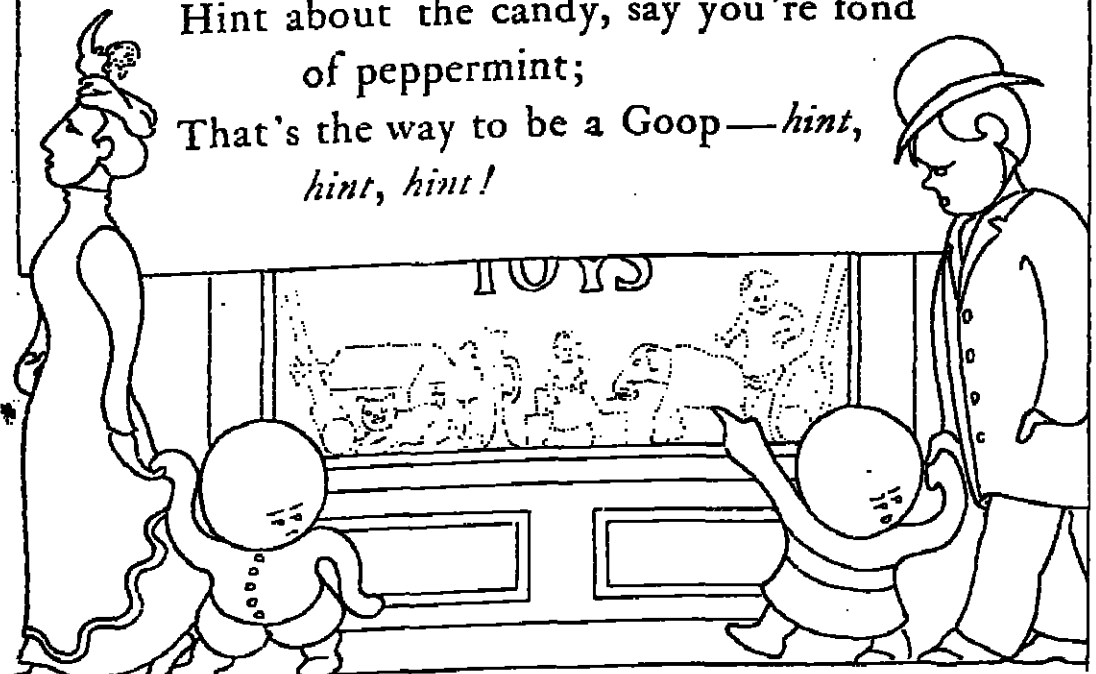
## TEASING

TEASE to linger longer when your mother bids you go;  
Tease to have a penny when your father answers, "No!"  
Tease to have a story when your uncle doesn't please;  
That's the way to be a Goop—tease, tease, tease!

Hint about the carriage when there's only room for three;  
Hint about the toys you like and every doll you see;

Hint about the candy, say you're fond  
of peppermint;

That's the way to be a Goop—hint,  
hint, hint!



## Amazing facts

## About people

The country with the most television sets in the world is the tiny Pacific island of Guam, where there are 700 sets for every 1000 people. Monaco, on the edge of the Mediterranean, is the only country with more telephones than people there are 1071 for every 1000 of the population.

Slaves in ancient Rome had a life expectancy of only 17-1/2 years.

King George I of England was unable to speak English — because he was German.

During the 9th century, the Danes occupying Ireland started a 'nose tax' of one ounce of gold per household. Non-payers had their noses slit.

Dr James Barry, a general in the British Army Medical Corps, was a woman — but this was not discovered until she died in 1865.

At the age of 30, Al Capone had been in control of organized crime in Chicago for four years, and his income had reached \$5,000,000. He was finally gaoled for not paying his taxes.

THE first man to fly under Westminster Bridge in London was F.K. McClean, who also flew between the upper and lower parts of Tower Bridge, and all the bridges in between, in 1912. When he landed on the river at Westminster, he was instructed by the police to move along. Unfortunately, the plane was damaged during take-off, and had to be removed by road.

The Roman emperor Caligula's real name was Gaius Julius Caesar Germanicus — Caligula was a nickname that meant 'little boots'. One of the mad emperor's more bizarre decrees was that his favourite horse, Incitatus, be made a consul of Rome.

In 1971, 29 students from a London college managed to stand on top of a Post Office pillar box.

The tallest recorded human being was Robert Waldon, who died in the USA at the age of 22 having reached 2.27m (8ft 11 in) in height. The tallest groups of people in the world are found in central Africa, where the average height of some tribes exceeds 1.83m (6ft).

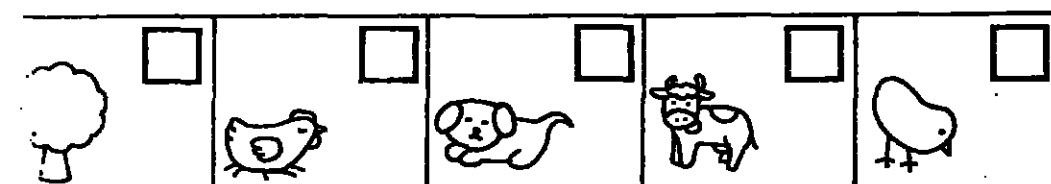
Captain William Bligh didn't only have trouble as captain of the ship Bounty. When he became governor of New South Wales in Australia, local army officers rebelled against him.



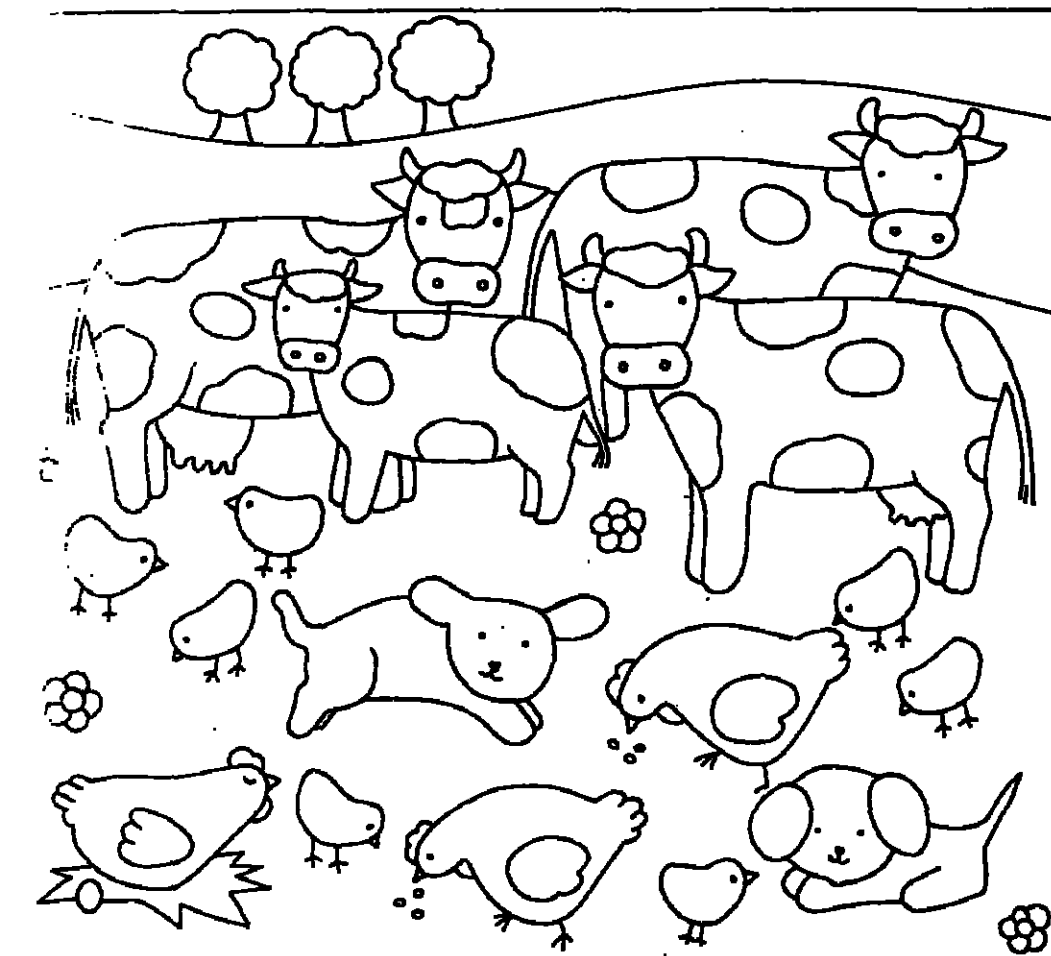
The notorious highwayman Claude Duval used to enjoy a dance with any ladies travelling in the coaches he held up!

## On the farm

Count the number of trees and animals in the large picture, and write the answers in the small boxes.



1 2 3 4 5 6 7



## Word search

## NASHVILLE MUSIC

ART  
BANJO  
BARN DANCE  
BOOTS  
CONCERT  
FIDDLE  
FOLK songs  
FULL SKIRT  
FUN  
GOSPEL  
GUEST  
GUITAR

HATS  
JUG  
LEGEND  
MICROPHONE  
POPULAR  
RADIO  
SHOW  
SING  
SQUARE DANCE  
STARS

M I C R O P H O N E B B F  
G T H B C O N C E R T U U  
B B R E G P B F F O N L L  
N V C A G U H N I H V C L  
E R T N L L M D S T A H S  
C B I O O A A V T H N L K  
N S Q U A R E D A N C E I  
A A H G U I T A R H N G R  
D D B O O T S H S U U E T  
N B G J W E E K B J N N R  
R N N J Y H U L H G D D E  
A A F V H Y G O S P E L L  
B B E L D D I F T R D S A

## Dear Junior readers,

Chocolates, cakes, sweets, puddings and Coca Cola are all delicious treats; we eat them because we enjoy them, rather than for their nutritional values. In fact most of them are only full of sugars which makes them harmful to our teeth.

Sugar, especially when refined (as in chocolates) tends to cling to teeth for very long periods. This provides a feast for bacteria living in mouths and as the bacteria begins to digest the food, it will also begin to eat into the tooth enamel (the outermost covering of the tooth).

The enamel is not very strong. Once the bacteria get through it, tooth decay will rapidly increase and soon there will be pain.

Please try to brush your teeth as soon as possible after eating such foods, then you will have the best of both worlds!

Manal

## First and last

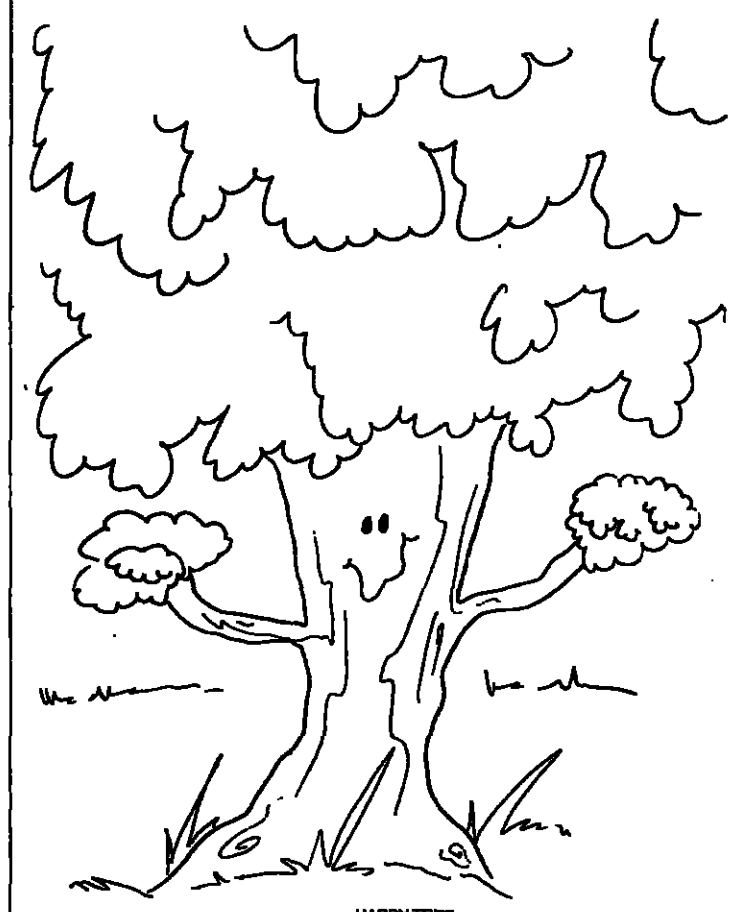
The Surrey Iron Railway became the world's first freight railway in 1803.

Proverb: "Think first and speak afterwards".

The first hitch-hikers rode on horseback for part of their journey, two travellers taking it in turns to ride the horse.

The world's first underground city railway ran from Bishop's Gate to Farringdon in London and went into service in 1863.

## Colour Timing



HAPPY TREE

## Birthday coupon

Is your birthday to come soon?  
Are you a regular reader of the Junior Times?  
Well, now is the chance to let your friends know that it is your birthday!

Or maybe you would like to surprise your best friend, brother or sister by putting their picture in for them.  
The details we need are:

Name: .....

Date of birth: .....

School: .....

Hobbies: .....

Telephone: .....

(confidential)

Your favourite most recent picture (4x6)

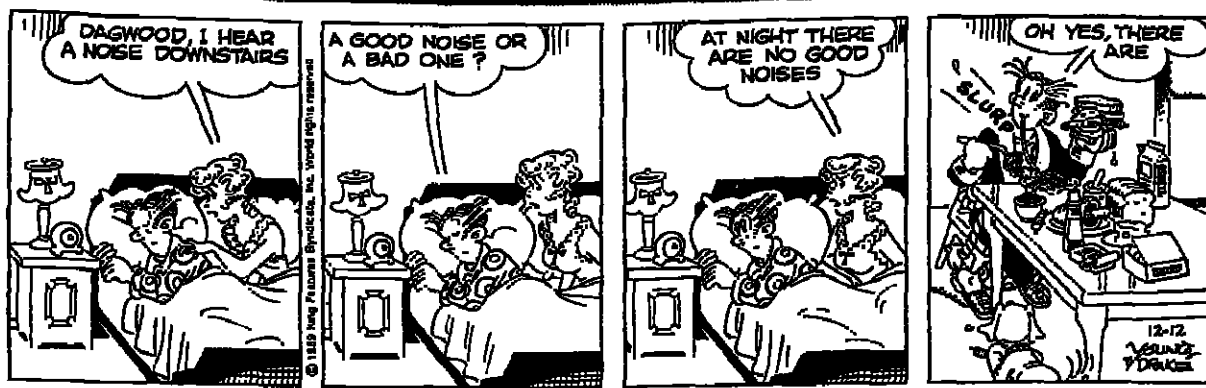
Send to:  
**ARAB TIMES**

Junior Times  
P.O. Box 2270  
13023, Safat,  
Kuwait

To avoid belated greetings please send within a week before the special date



## BLONDIE By Dean Young &amp; Steve Drake



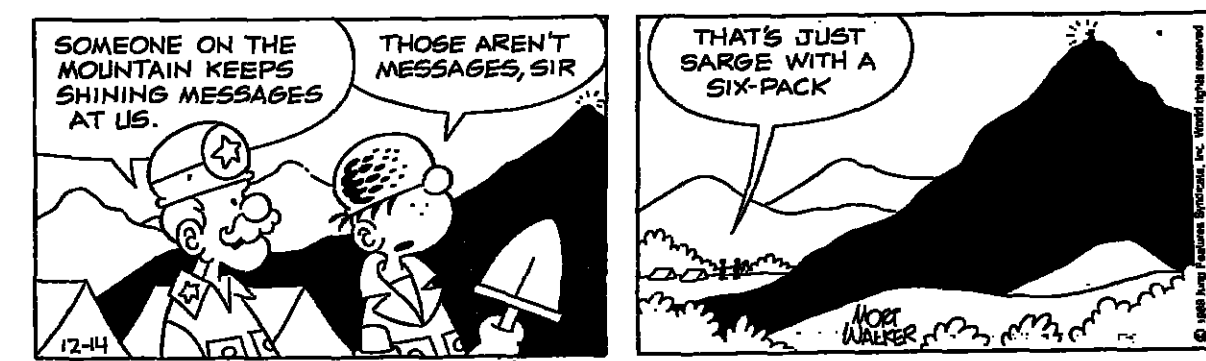
## HAGAR THE HORRIBLE By Dik Browne



## KATHA CRUMB By Bill Hoest



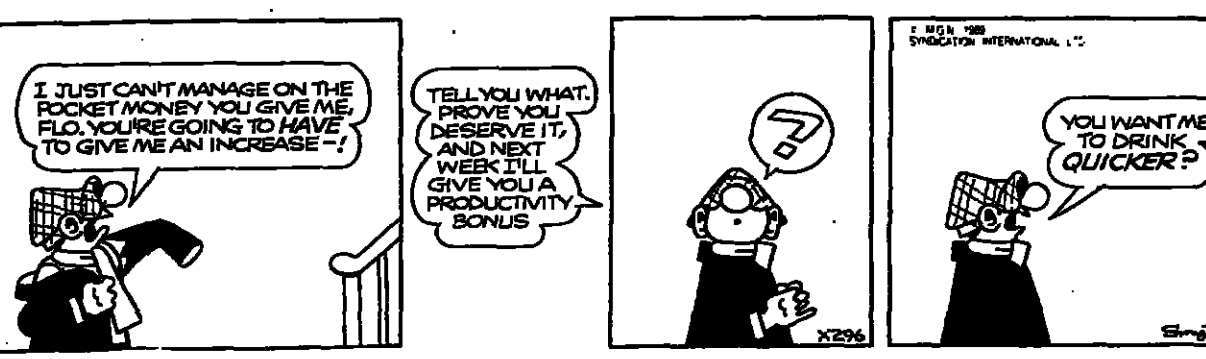
## BEENIE BAILEY By Merv Wolfert



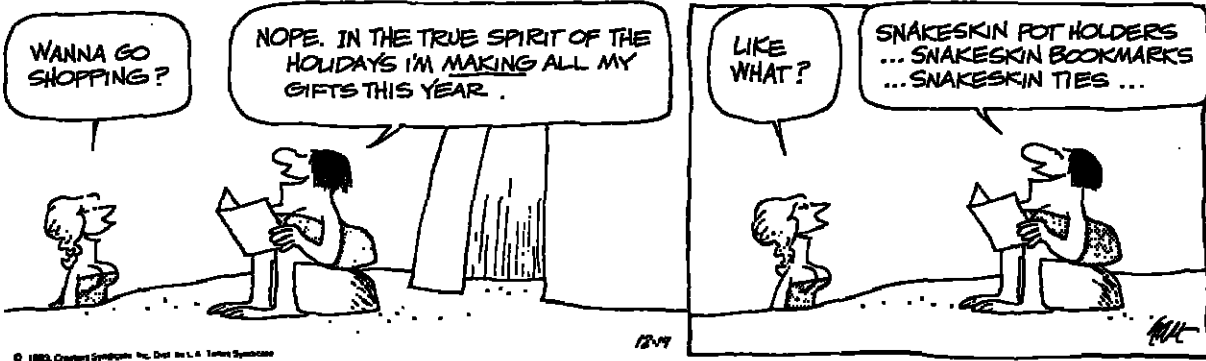
## THE VIZARD OF ID By Brent Parker &amp; Johnny Hart



## ANDY CAPP



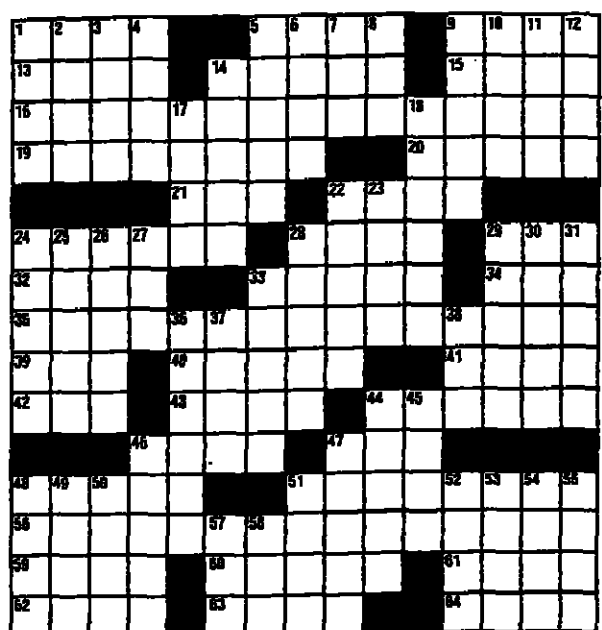
## B.C. By Johnny Hart



## HE-MAN By G. Fortson &amp; J. Shull



## TODAY'S CROSSWORD



- ACROSS**
- Wander of tennis
  - Fraternity letter
  - Project
  - "Tosca" tune
  - "Stormy" composer
  - Took a taxi
  - Useful fellow
  - Truant, e.g.
  - Olympian Jesse
  - These, in Toulon
  - Doe's baby
  - Roof support
  - Tag, e.g.
  - Family member, for short
  - Perry's creator
  - Packaging material
  - "Maria"
  - Scoutlike fellow
  - "I wandered lonely — cloud"
  - "Die Fledermaus" role
  - Finished
  - Bottom line
  - Swears
  - Runs, as dye
  - Colloids
  - Ranch sound
  - Michaelmas daisy
  - Afrisco
  - Available fellow
  - Sailor's direction
  - Borders on
  - Circus performer
  - Rogers et al.
- DOWN**
- Rock group
  - Domini
  - Goya model
  - Middle Easterner
  - Personal quirks
  - Japanese rice wine
  - Scottish hillside
  - Fashion magazine
  - Aviv
  - Busy insect
  - Shrimplike crustacean
  - Rich supply
  - Yemen's capital
  - Highland loch
  - Following
  - Formerly
  - Ivanhoe's lady
  - Play by Feydeau
  - Oracles
  - Crested ducks
  - Pub
  - Worshipped one
  - Shad delicacy
  - Spa features
  - Take on cargo
  - Barry and Kelly
  - Plays the ram
  - Open
  - Fly alone
- ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:**
- BABY SCARE CAMP  
ALPINE AREA  
SUGARBUSH VALLEY  
HMS ALBEE BLOTS  
LIED ALOE  
DEBUSHY TORRENT  
ARJIE FEST MAJ  
RISE MAIDS HEIR  
ECO FAST SIEVE  
SAMSONS ALTERED  
TREE TAOS  
SHOOT SETIN TEE  
MARTHAS VINEYARD  
OISE LOIRE ARID  
GROS ARLES ZANY

## GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF  
WATCH FOR THE SNAKE IN THE GRASS

Both vulnerable. South deals.

**NORTH**  
 ♠ A Q 3  
 ♥ A 8 3  
 ♦ Q 10 5 2  
 ♣ Q 10 4

**WEST**  
 ♠ J 9 5 2  
 ♥ J 10 9 7  
 ♦ A J 9  
 ♣ 8 3

**EAST**  
 ♠ K 8 7 4  
 ♥ K Q 5 4 2  
 ♦ 7  
 ♣ 9 7 6

**SOUTH**  
 ♠ 10 6  
 ♥ 6  
 ♦ K 8 6 4 3  
 ♣ A K J 5 2

The bidding:

South West North East  
 1 ♦ Pass 2 NT Pass  
 3 ♣ Pass 4 ♦ Pass  
 5 ♦ Pass 4 ♣ Pass

Opening lead: Jack of ♣

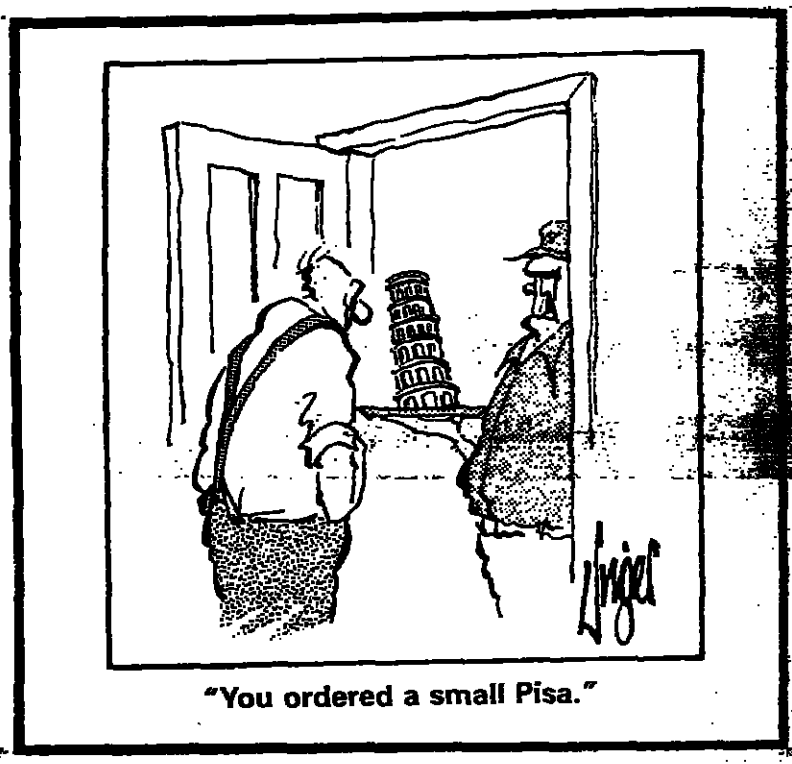
Here's a hand to test your dummy play. Cover the East-West hands with your thumbs and decide how you would play five diamonds after the lead of the jack of hearts.

Your bidding has been excellent. Partner's jump to four diamonds showed a maximum two no trump response and a good fit, but not even that could excite you. With such a shabby trump suit, you have no aspirations beyond game.

When dummy comes down, you like what you see. You have play for your contract even if you have to lose two trump tricks, since you can score three trump tricks, five clubs, one in each major suit and a spade ruff in dummy after taking two discards on the clubs.

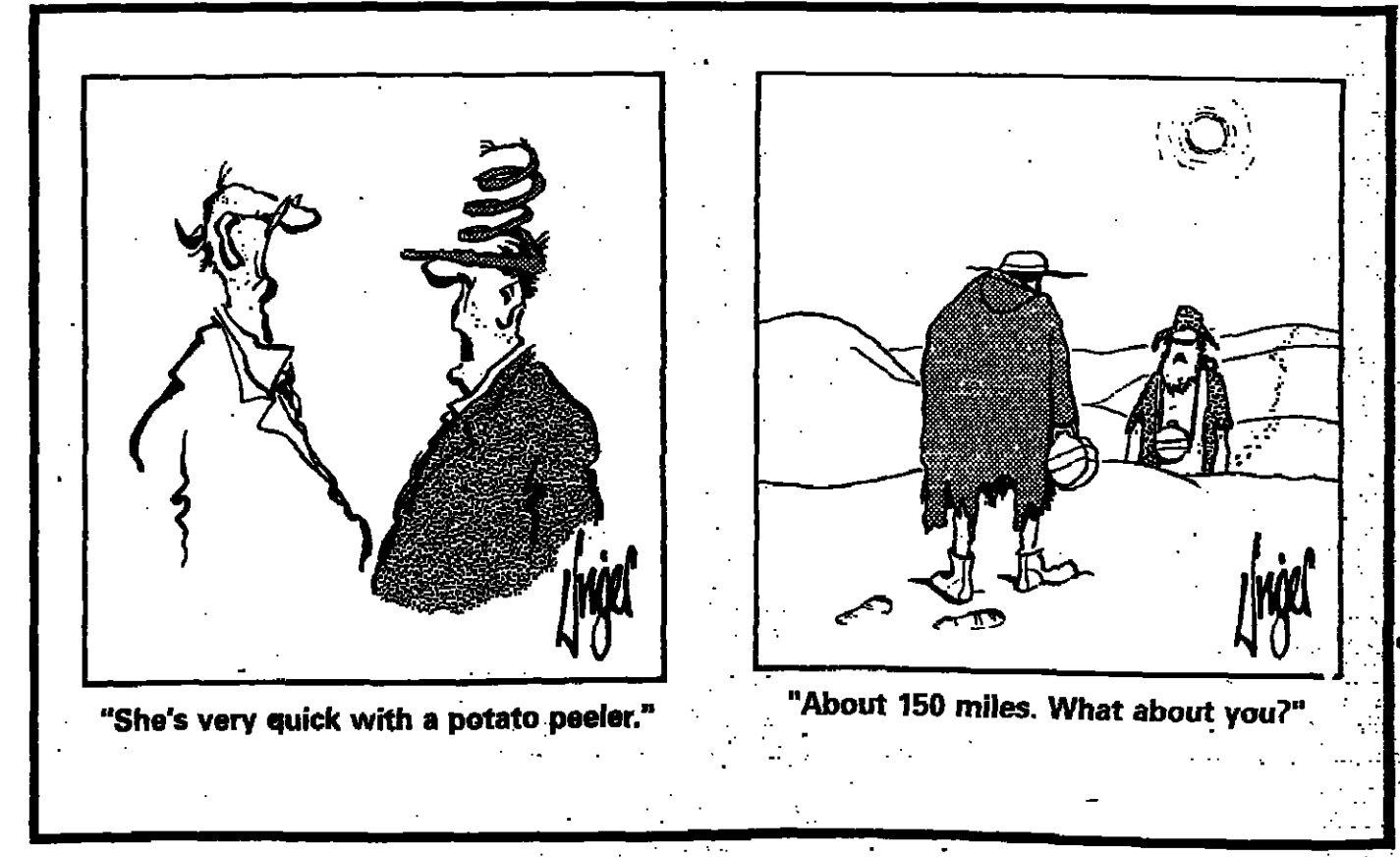
However, you could be in trouble if you win the ace of hearts and lead a diamond to your king. Suppose that West wins the ace and switches to a spade. If you finesse and it loses, or if you rise with the ace, your contract will hinge on not losing a second trump trick.

To counter the distribution that threatens your contract, you should plan to lose your trump tricks to the safe hand—in this case, East. After winning the ace of hearts come to hand (the safest way is with a heart ruff) and lead a trump. If West follows with a low trump, finesse the ten! If that loses to the jack, East cannot attack spades profitably. Win any return, drive out the ace of trumps, win the ace of spades if necessary, draw the last trump and run your clubs. If the ten of diamonds wins, continue as above. It's only fitting that, on the actual distribution, your thoughtful play is rewarded with an overtrick.



## YOUR STARS

- Aries** March 21 - April 20  
 You should try to get out of the habit of putting things anywhere and then not being able to find them. This is not better than any other time for gambling. Spend no more than you can afford. Be sensible.
- Cancer** June 21 - July 20  
 You will have to work hard if you want to meet your commitments. And you must do all you can to keep a promise. Avoid relying on guesswork and do not depend on luck. Be fair.
- Libra** Sept. 21 - Oct. 22  
 You are on the right track but others will not think so. Stick to your principles and do not run out of patience. Make sure you get all the rest you need but do not just put your feet up. Be frugal.
- Capricorn** Dec. 21 - Jan. 19  
 You will have to deal with a rather excitable person and you should keep calm yourself if you at all can. Avoid placing too much reliance on others. If you think once more before you act you will be glad you did so. Be reliable.
- Taurus** April 21 - May 20  
 If you hope for some good luck you may have a long time to wait. You should not be late for an appointment and must be at the right place too. Try to ensure others receive good value from you. Be generous.
- Leo** July 21 - Aug. 21  
 If you think that others will not spot an omission on your part you could well be wrong. You should not spend too much time doing puzzles or playing games just now. Curb your expenditure somewhat. Be tolerant.
- Scorpio** Oct. 23 - Nov. 22  
 The situation is favourable but you will also have to work hard. You will at last have learnt a skill which you have found hard to acquire. You should keep your eyes and ears open. Be reasonable.
- Aquarius** Jan. 20 - Feb. 19  
 You do not have enough time and room to do all you would like to do. Your lucky numbers are 12 and 35. Make sure you do not do anything that would obviously harm your health. You may have some good luck but cannot rely on it. Be resilient.
- Gemini** May 21 - June 20  
 You are all too liable to get things wrong. Consequently you should always check your results. You should not trust to chance or luck, instead do your best to depend on reason. Be sincere.
- Virgo** Aug. 23 - Sept. 22  
 Pay a little more heed to other people's opinions. Do not think what you have to say on the subject is the only approach. You should ask yourself whether you have not come to the wrong conclusion. Be more alert.
- Sagittarius** Nov. 23 - Dec. 21  
 You should be a little more indulgent when dealing with a friend who has adopted some quaint ideas. Something you are reluctant to do should not be put off any longer. Try to avoid all kinds of distractions. Be moderate.
- Pisces** Feb. 20 - March 20  
 Something you had scarcely expected will come to pass but it will be relatively easy to deal with. Do not place too much reliance on something over which you have little or no control. Show just a little more goodwill. Be more patient.



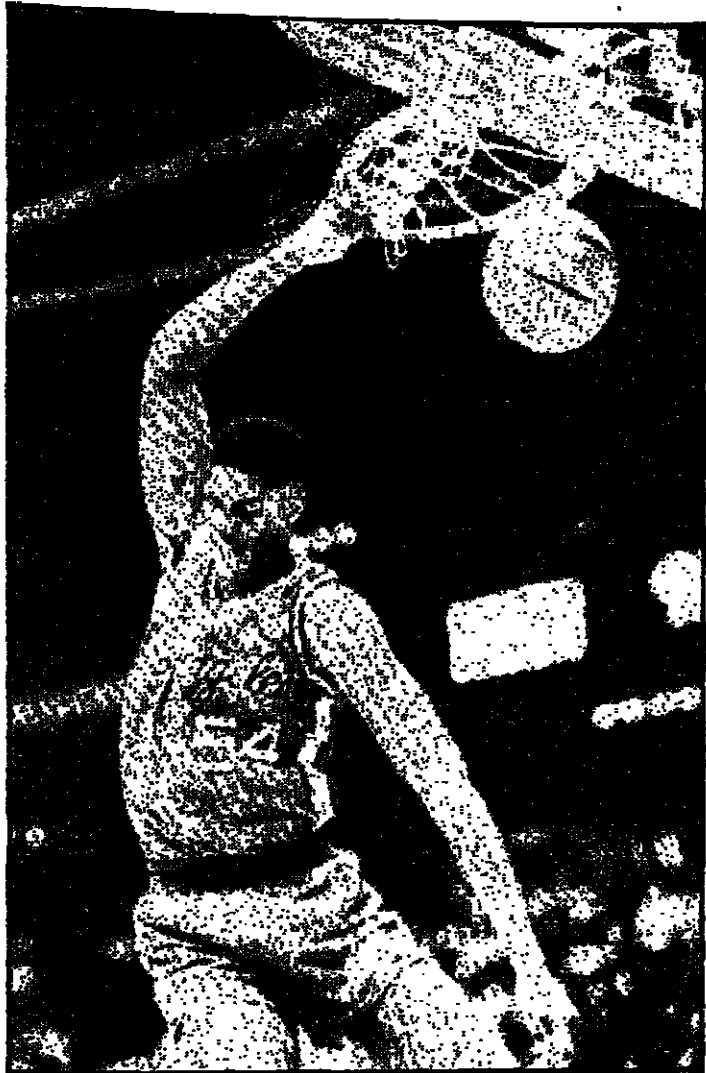






# Suns beat Lakers in overtime

## Ewing takes Knicks past Bullets



Clippers' Charles Smith slam dunks for two points

NEW YORK, Jan. 10. (AP) Patrick Ewing scored 35 points, including two go-ahead free throws with 31 seconds left in overtime, as the New York Knicks beat the Washington Bullets 131-127 last night despite a season-high 2 points by Bernard King.

Ewing made all six of his free-throw attempts in overtime, which was tied five times before he made it 129-127. Mark Alarie then missed a jumper for the Bullets, who got another chance when Trent Tucker threw away an inbound pass for the Knicks. Ledell Eackles missed a 3-point shot that Tucker rebounded with one-tenth of a second to go. Tucker then hit two free throws for the final margin. The Bullets, who lost their 13th consecutive road game, never trailed until Ewing's baseline shot with 1:28 left in regulation gave the Knicks a 114-113 edge.

New Jersey limited Boston to a franchise-low six points in the second period as Sam Bowie led the Nets to victory. The total was the second-lowest second-quarter total in NBA history.

The Celtics, without top scorer Larry Bird for the second straight game because of a sprained ankle, saw a five-game road winning streak soaped. Reggie Lewis led Boston with 22 points.

Purvis Short scored 17 points in place of the injured Dennis Hobson for the Nets. Roy Hinson scored 14 points for the Nets.

Clippers 108, Hornets 98

Ron Harper scored 19 of his 25

points in the second half as the Los Angeles won for the third time on the road this season.

Charles Smith scored 23 points and grabbed 15 rebounds and Danny Manning added 22 points as the Clippers went on a 16-2 tear late in the third quarter to take a 74-66 lead after trailing by six.

The Hornets were led by Dell Curry, who scored 23 points, and forward Armon Gilliam, who added 22 points and grabbed nine rebounds.

Spurs 107, Heat 102 Willie Anderson led a late rally that enabled San Antonio Spurs to surpass its victory total for all of last season and hand Miami its 11th straight loss.

The victory was the 10th in 12 games for the Spurs, who won for the 22nd time this season.

The Spurs trailed 95-91 when Anderson, who scored 26 points, hit a short bank shot with 5:32 left to start a decisive eight-point run.

Pistons 100, Bulls 90

Detroit's Joe Dumars scored 24 of his 28 points in the first half and helped hold Chicago's Michael Jordan to five points in the second half.

Jordan, who scored 40 points against Detroit in their previous meeting, which Chicago won, finished with 16 points for the Bulls, who sustained their fourth straight regular-season loss at the Palace, dating back to last season.

Suns 121, Lakers 118 (OT)

Kevin Johnson scored 10 of his 34 points in overtime, including

four free throws in the final 10 seconds for Phoenix.

The Suns beat the Lakers, who got a club-record-tying 24 assists from Magic Johnson, for only the eighth time in their last 33 meetings.

Tom Chambers added 34 points for the Suns, including a basket that tied the game at 102 at the end of regulation play. James Worthy had 25 points and Magic Johnson 24 for the Lakers.

Rockets 97, SuperSonics 90 Akem Olajuwon scored 38 points, including eight in the final five minutes, and got 15 rebounds to lead Houston.

Olajuwon scored 25 points in the second half in Houston's third straight victory and its sixth straight at home.

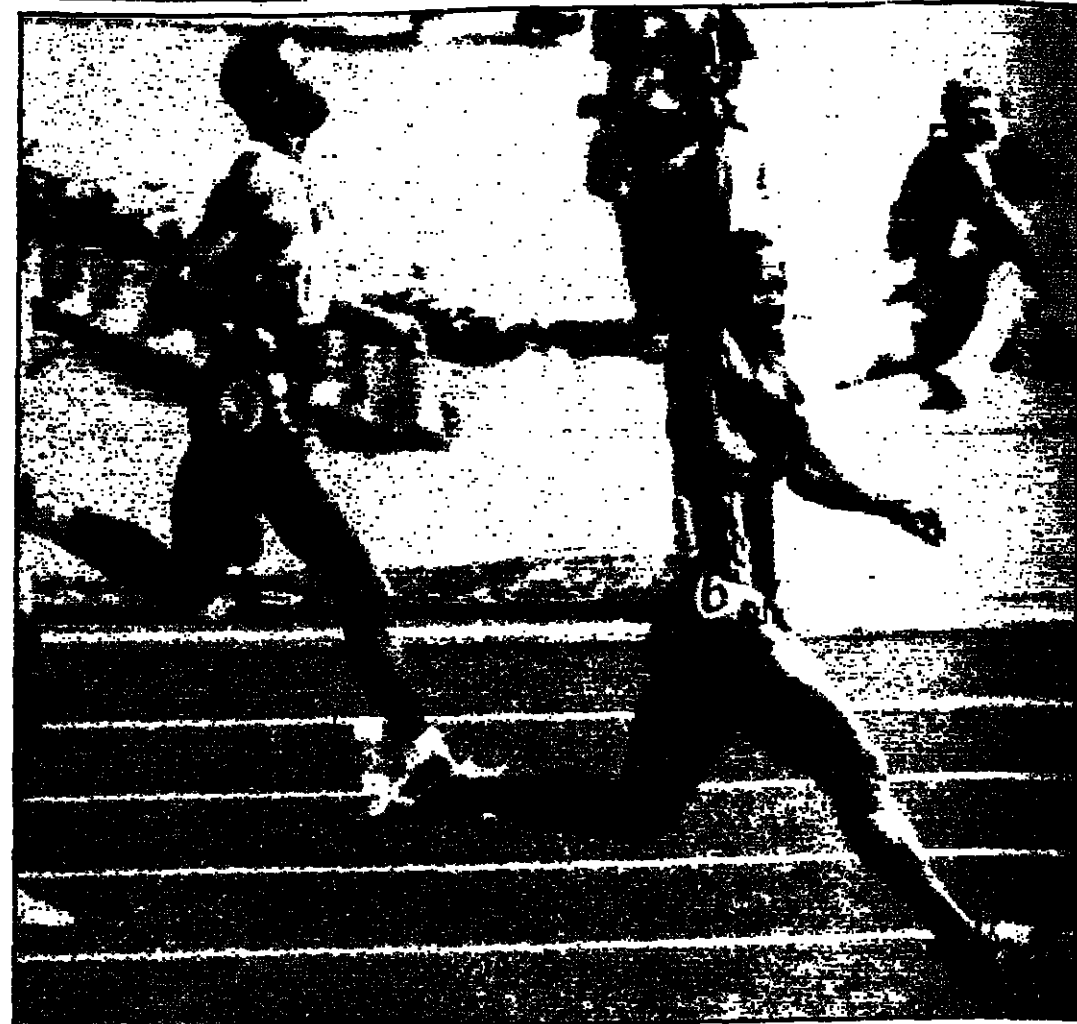
Kings 84, Timberwolves 70

Dick Motta picked up his first victory as Sacramento coach, and the NBA season-low for the fewest combined points in a game was matched when the Kings beat Minnesota.

Rodney McCray led Sacramento, which won for just the second time in 15 games, with 21 points. Tony Campbell scored 20 for the Timberwolves, who lost their sixth straight road game.

Results

New York	131	Washington	127 (OT)
L.A. Clippers	108	Charlotte	98
Detroit	100	Chicago	90
San Antonio	107	Miami	102
New Jersey	97	Boston	78
Phoenix	121	L.A. Lakers	118 (OT)
Houston	97	Seattle	90
Sacramento	84	Minnesota	70



Johnson (right) beating Lewis to the finish line in Seoul. (Reuters telephoto)

## 'Johnson supplemented steroid use'

WASHINGTON, Jan. 10. (AP) Canadian track star Ben Johnson supplemented his steroid use with an unspecified amphetamine before competing in the 100-metre race at the Seoul Olympics, gold medal winner Carl Lewis said in a report published yesterday.

Lewis made the allegation during an interview with Washington Post newspaper reporters and editors.

"Everybody talked about it and knew it," Lewis was quoted as saying. "Five weeks earlier in Zurich, he had the same lead over me in Seoul and he lost it. Five weeks later, he has the same lead and doesn't lose an inch."

Johnson defeated Lewis in their meeting at the 1988 Olympics with an amazing time of 9.92 seconds. But he was discovered to have been using anabolic steroids in the weeks prior to the race and was stripped of his gold medal.

Lewis, who finished second with a time of 9.92 seconds, was declared the winner of the race following Johnson's disqualification and was awarded the gold medal.

"In the heats, he would run out of gas. He didn't finish well. But in the final, I knew he was taking something... for his finish. We're not talking about someone who was just playing coy. We're talking about somebody who took something," Lewis said.

He declined to identify the substance that Johnson allegedly took to enhance the performance of the steroids.

Lewis said he had never taken steroids and called for the dismissals of any track and field coach dispensing them.

He refused to confirm reports that he and Johnson would race after Johnson's two-year international suspension is lifted on Sept. 25, but said such a venture was "a possibility, 50-50 at best."

## Palmer and Morgan elected to baseball Hall of Fame

NEW YORK, Jan. 10. (AP) Jim Palmer and Joe Morgan, who made great baseball teams even better in the 1970s, last night became the 20th and 21st players elected to the Hall of Fame in their first year of eligibility.

Palmer, a smooth symbol of Baltimore's champions, got the second-highest vote total ever for a pitcher. Morgan, a model of Cincinnati's big red machine, comfortably made it to Cooperstown, too.

It was, however, another year of disappointment for several other top pitchers. Gaylord Perry, a 300-game winner, came up short and Ferguson Jenkins

and Jim Bunning also failed.

There was a lot of doubt in my mind in terms of getting in the first year. There are a lot of guys who deserve it who don't," Palmer said from a celebration party in Towson, Maryland. "To get in the first year is really special."

Palmer was named on 411 of 444 votes cast by members of the Baseball Writers' Association of America. His 92.5 per cent trailed only Bob Feller's 93.75 per cent in 1962 among pitchers.

Players need 75 per cent to be elected to the hall this year, that meant 333 ballots. Morgan got 363 votes for 81.7 per cent.

## Schmidt gets permission to compete for W. Germany

EAST BERLIN, Jan. 10. (AP) East German track and field officials have recommended that discuss thrower Wolfgang Schmidt be given permission to compete for West Germany, an East German newspaper reported today.

The move will allow Schmidt to compete for West Germany at the European Track and Field Championships in Split, Yugoslavia, in August, the newspaper Deutsches Sportecho said.

Schmidt, who is still one of the top-ranked discuss throwers in the world although he will be 36 next week, was expelled from the East German national team in 1981 and jailed in 1982 after stating his wish to move to West Germany.

The newspaper said the recommendation to the East German sports authorities was made by a track and field commission that included Olympic champions Juergen Schult, a discuss thrower, and Ulf Timmermann and Udo Beyer, both shot putters.

Schmidt, a former world record holder, was allowed to leave East Germany in November 1987 and resettled in West Germany. East German objections have prevented Schmidt from competing for West Germany until now and he was forced to miss the 1988 Seoul Olympics.

Under international rules, an athlete has to wait three years from the date of resettlement until he is allowed to compete for his new country.

The wait can be reduced to one year if the two countries agree. But in Schmidt's case, the East Germans have refused until now to give their go-ahead to the outstanding discuss thrower.

Since the political changes in East Germany, East and West German sports officials have met several times to discuss closer cooperation and Schmidt's case has been high on the agenda.

## LA preparing for US festival

LOS ANGELES, Jan. 10. (AP) Organizers are lining up competition venues and recruiting the first corporate sponsors for the 1991 US Olympic Festival in Los Angeles.

The Olympic festival, an annual US competition first staged in 1978, will be held in Minneapolis this year and will run from July 12-21 in Los Angeles in 1991.

Harry Usher, general manager of the Los Angeles Olympic organizing committee and chairman of the board of directors for the festival, said yesterday that the athletes will be housed at UCLA.

## IOC dampens South African hopes of early re-admission

PARIS, Jan. 10. (Reuters) The International Olympic Committee (IOC) told South Africa yesterday it must introduce non-racial sports federations before its readmission to the Olympic movement could be considered.

A delegation from Pretoria's white-run National Olympic Committee met IOC advisers in Paris to discuss the possibility of South Africa's readmission to the movement from which it was expelled because of its apartheid race policies.

They said in a joint statement issued after their five-hour talks: "The IOC advisers pointed out that the Olympic movement cannot consider reviewing South Africa's position until there are genuine non-racial unitary sports federations in all the Olympic disciplines."

South Africa has not competed in the Olympics since in Rome, 1960.

Johan du Plessis, president of the South African Olympic Committee, said he accepted the view of the IOC advisers.

He said he believed the biggest obstacle to South Africa's readmission was the lack of a single sports organisation for the whole country.

"As soon as I get back to South Africa, I am going to send invitation, to get people together to try to get one umbrella sport organisation for the country," he told Reuters.

He said he would seek the support of the anti-apartheid movement inside South Africa for a return to the IOC.

The IOC advisers, Sam Ramsamy, chairman of the South African Non-Racial Olympic Committee, and former Ethiopian Olympic committee secretary Fekrou Kidane, both of the body's apartheid commission, will report to IOC president Juan Antonio Samaranch.

## WBC withdraws Duran's crown

MEXICO CITY, Jan. 10. (AP) The World Boxing Council withdrew recognition yesterday of the middleweight boxing title held by Panamanian Roberto Duran because he has not defended his title within the required 10 months.

Duran won his title Feb. 24, 1989, by beating Iran Barkley of the United States in Atlantic City, New Jersey. He had until Jan. 8 to accept a challenge to his title.

Barkley had won the WBC middleweight title in 1988 with a third-round knockout of Thomas Hearns.

"In the time that has passed, he has not responded to our requests, so the WBC is withdrawing effective today its recognition of him as middleweight world champion," the boxing council said in a statement.

"The WBC, according to its regulations, is putting this decision to a vote, which requires the support of two-thirds of the executive committee's vote," the statement said.

The council said Duran has 15 days to appeal the decision.

## Games organisers expect success

AUCKLAND, New Zealand, Jan. 10. (Reuters) Organisers of the Auckland Commonwealth Games, the biggest in the event's 60-year history, expect success despite a string of harrowing setbacks.

In the last six months they have had to deal with a boycott threat, a potential 25 million dollar (\$15 million) loss and former Games chairman David Johnson appearing in court.

In addition Johnson's successor recently spent a week in hospital after being admitted to a coronary ward and demonstrations by Maoris cannot be ruled out.

But despite the difficulties, chief executive Tom Aldridge feels all the major problems have now been overcome. "They are not new. Every Games has its problems... there's no doubt the Games will be a great success," he told Reuters.

Johnson was charged with conspiracy in an alleged multi-million dollar fraud related to his private business affairs, an accusation he vigorously denies.

He agreed to resign a month ago as Games chairman and has since given up as a Games director to fight the charge against him.

Almost 3,500 athletes and officials are expected for the Games opening on January 24 - 50 per cent more than any of the past events, born in Canada as the 1930 British Empire Games.

The last Games four years ago in Edinburgh were substantially undermined when more than half the

teams staged a boycott over Britain's refusal to impose economic sanctions on South Africa.

They also amassed big debts and had to be bailed out by businessmen including British media tycoon Robert Maxwell.

Six months ago the Auckland Games seemed to be heading the same way.

Announcements of rebel rugby and cricket tours to South Africa including British sportsmen raised fears of another boycott or an attempt to exclude British teams.

Faced with the prospect of another fiasco, many potential sponsors dropped plans to back the Games. This plunged the organisers, already struggling to raise funds due to a depressed New Zealand economy, into deep financial troubles.

Last August Johnson revealed the Games faced a potential loss amounting to a quarter of the 100 million dollar (\$60 million) overall cost.

With suppliers and bankers refusing credit, funds dried up at one point. Johnson admitted having to write a personal cheque to buy sweatshirts and t-shirts for a fund-raising event because the Games company could not pay the modest bill.

Then the government came to the rescue, promising to cover any loss up to 20 million dollars (\$12 million) from local and central funds. Aldridge said latest figures showed the rest would be made up from cost cutting and extra fund raising.

By November the tide seemed finally to be turning the organisers' way. Financial troubles had

been largely overcome and the boycott threat was fading after a big diplomatic campaign by the government.

But then disaster struck again in December. Johnson as forced out after news broke that police were investigating his private business affairs. He later appeared in court on a conspiracy charge over an alleged 6.7 million dollar (\$4 million) fraud.

Johnson was replaced by Sir Earl Richardson, serving his second term as chairman after stepping down on health grounds in 1988. Last week, Sir Earl, an enthusiastic, was admitted to a coronary ward after falling ill, although released yesterday.

But the problems may not be over yet. New Zealand's Maori may use the Games to protest about their grievances, particularly as members of the British royal family will be there.

Queen Elizabeth II head of the Commonwealth, will close the Games on February 3 while her youngest son, Prince Edward will open them.

Royal visits have long attracted Maori demonstrations, the most notorious of which was a 1983 incident when veteran campaigner Dun Miahaka displayed his bare backside to royal heir Prince Charles.

"I'm sure there will be some sort of protest," said Aldridge. "There will be a few but I don't think it'll have any effect on the Games."

But Miahaka was unavailable for comment on whether protestors would fulfil his long-standing promise to give the royals a "21 bum salute."

## US Tour enters nineties seeking lost charisma

NEW YORK, Jan. 10. (Reuters) The US golf Tour, shorn of most of Europe's stars and with Jack Nicklaus and Lee Trevino reduced to a part-time role, enters the 1990s seeking a new infusion of charisma.

The Professional Golfers Association (PGA) Tour boasts plenty of players who can compile statistics to rival greats like Nicklaus, Trevino, Arnold Palmer and South Africa's Gary Player, none has emerged as a crowd-pulling personality.

The "golden bear" and the "Merry man" at 50 years of age will spend a good portion of their playing time on the Senior Tour which already provides a showcase for stars of yesteryear such as Palmer, Player and New Zealand's Bob Charles.

Curtis Strange, who has won the US Open for the past two years, 1989 leading moneywinner Tom Kite and British Open champion Mark Caldecaccia have proved they have skills worthy of

Nicklaus and Palmer but none has stirred the ardour of the fans enough to create a new "Jack's Pack" or "Arnie's Army."

In fact, in a sport whose stars have earned nicknames such as "Slammin' Sam" (Snead), the "Hawk" or "Ice Man" (Ben Hogan) or simply "Arnie" (Palmer), none of the present-day Americans has an instantly recognisable equivalent.

There is one media star on the tour who goes by the name of the "great White Shark," but that belongs to the muscular, platinum-haired Greg Norman of Australia.

Seve Ballesteros of Spain always arouses excitement among US golf fans, but his appearances are limited to just five a year plus the Majors following a long-running feud with PGA commissioner Deane Beman.

Ballesteros, who was named the Player of the Decade by US golf writers after winning two British Opens and two Mas-

ters crowns, lost his PGA Tour membership in 1986 after failing to play the required minimum of 15 events.

Last year the top Europeans held a series of meetings with Beman in an effort to relax the rule to make it easier for them to play on both the European and US circuits, but the move was rejected by the PGA Tour.

As a result, Britain's Nick Faldo, who captured the Masters last year, and West German Bernhard Langer, winner of the event in 1985, both resigned from the US Tour while Ballesteros and Britain's Ian Woosnam decided not to apply. Only Sandy Lyle, Masters champion in 1988, remains a member.

All but Lyle played in the Ryder Cup team which tied with the United States last year after two wins in a row, proving that the top European golfers are still a match for the Americans.

Apart from Norman, a sprinkling of

South Africans and Japanese and limited appearances by the Europeans, the US Tour in 1990 will resemble a domestic competition between players who, like Beman, could be taken for accountants - putting up impressive numbers but with little flair.

Even so, there are some intriguing questions to stimulate the fans in 1990.

Can Strange win his third US Open in a row, a feat not achieved since Willie Anderson in 1903-05?

Will the Europeans continue their recent domination of the Masters?

Can Tom Watson at 40 capture the only major title to elude him, the PGA Championship?

Or can he win his sixth British Open at St Andrews and tie Harry Vardon with most victories in the most venerable championship?

Will upstarts continue to upstage the established stars, emulating Steve Jones



Seve Ballesteros



Jack Nicklaus (left) and Lee Trevino: to spend more time playings on the Senior Tour



Greg Norman





## Sampras upsets Mayotte

## Lendl, Becker win

SYDNEY, Jan 10. (Reuters): Ivan Lendl and Boris Becker moved towards their first anticipated showdown of the 1990s with easy first round wins at the New South Wales Open tennis tournament today.

The world's top two players, seeded to meet in Sunday's final of the rain-hit event, dropped only nine games between them as they made a welcome return to the court after yesterday's complete wash-out.

Lendl disposed of his former doubles partner Andrew Sznajder of Canada 6-1 6-3 before Becker took his place on centre court to muscle his way past Alexander Volkov of the Soviet Union 6-3 6-2.

Lendl served 11 aces but was not altogether happy in the breezy, overcast conditions. "I didn't find the conditions very easy today but it was good to get out and hit a lot of balls," he said.

Fourth seed Tim Mayotte became the first major casualty of the tournament when he crashed out in straight sets to fellow American qualifier Pete Sampras.

Mayotte served a double fault to lose a first set tie-break and the 18-year-old Sampras took full advantage to win 7-6 6-2.

Sampras, who beat Mats Wilander at last year's US Open, afterwards described the result as "one of the biggest wins of my career."

He knew I could play tennis. I don't know if he's psyched out when he plays me but it seems as though he doesn't play as well as he's capable of against me," said Sampras.

France's Yannick Noah took just 27 minutes in the morning to complete a 6-4 6-3 win over Ronald Agener.

In another interrupted contest in the women's singles, Claudia Porwik of West Germany knocked out twelfth seed Patty Fendick of the US 5-7 7-5 6-3.

Becker later said he was satisfied with his start to the tournament.

"It was a pretty good start. I played better today than I did in last year's Australian Open," he said.

"Last year, I took too much time off between the Davis Cup final and the Australian Open and I didn't want to make that mistake again."

## Results

Men's singles, first round (seeds in parentheses):

Yannick Noah, France (8) def. Ronald Agener, Haiti, 6-4, 6-3; Ivan Lendl, Czechoslovakia (1) def. Andrew Sznajder, Canada, 6-1, 6-3; Boris Becker, West Germany (2) def. Alexander Volkov, Soviet Union, 6-3, 6-2; David Wheaton, US, def. Andres Gomez, Ecuador (6), 7-5, 6-4; Paul Anacone, US, def. Mark Kratzmann, Australia, 6-1, 6-4; Pete Sampras, US, def. Tim Mayotte, US (4), 7-6 (8-6), 6-2; Aaron Krickstein, US (3), def. Jan Gunnarsson, Sweden, 7-6 (8-6), 6-2; Jean Florin, France, def. Goran Prpić, Yugoslavia, 6-2, 6-2; Nicolas Pietrangeli, def. Christo van Rensburg, South Africa, 7-6 (7-4), 6-2; Omar Camporese, Italy, def. Jordi Arrese, Spain, 4-6, 6-4, 6-4; Goran Ivanisevic, Yugoslavia, def. Sergi Bruguera, Spain, 7-5, 6-2; Carl-Uwe Steeb, West Germany (7), def. Leonardo Lavalle, Mexico, 6-1, 6-4.

Women's singles, first round:

Nicole Pietrangeli, Australia, def. Catherine Tanvier, France, 6-0, 6-3; Jana Pospisilova, Czechoslovakia, def. Pam Shriver, US (5), 6-3, 6-7 (6-8), 7-5; Elizabeth Smylie, Australia, def. Louise Field, Australia, 7-5, 6-7 (3-7), 6-4; Rachel McQuillan, Australia, def. Robin White, US, 4-6, 6-2, 6-4; Brenda Schultz, Holland, def. Jo-Anne Paull, Australia, 6-3, 6-2; Claudia Porwik, West Germany, def. Patty Fendick, US (12), 5-7, 7-5, 6-3; Marion Bollegraf, Holland, def. Andrea Temesvari, Hungary, 6-3, 6-2; Judith Wiesner, Austria, def. Karine Quénec, France, 7-5, 6-4; Gigi Fernandez, US (9), def. Cammy MacGregor, US, 6-3, 6-1; Shaun Stafford, US, def. Etsuko Inoue, Japan, 6-4, 4-6, 7-5; Amy Frazier, US (14), def. Nicole Pietrangeli, Australia, 6-4, 6-6, 6-3; Natalia Zvereva, Soviet Union (11), def. Akiko Kijimuta, Japan, 6-3, 6-1; Julie Halard, France, def. Lori McNeil, US, 6-2, 1-6, 7-5.

Women's singles, second round:

Hana Mandlikova, Australia (4) def. Elizabeth Smylie, Australia, 6-2, 6-2; Iana Novotna, Czechoslovakia (2), def. Rachel McQuillan, Australia, 6-1, 6-4; Nicole Pietrangeli, Australia, def. Rosalyn Fairbank, US (8), 6-2, 7-6 (7-2); Isabelle Demongeot, France, def. Helen Kelesi, Canada (3), 6-2, 4-6, 7-6 (7-4); Claudia Porwik, West Germany, def. Elise Burgin, US, 6-3, 6-2; Amy Frazier, US, def. Nathalie Herremans, France, 6-4, 6-0; Radka Zrubakova, Soviet Union (13), def. Ann Henriksen, US, 6-3, 2-6, 7-6 (8-6); Julie Halard, France, def. Larisa Savchenko, Soviet Union (6), 6-4, 7-5.



Lendl has his eyes firmly set on the ball. (Reuters wirephoto)

## Robinson's admiration for Montana wearing thin

ANAHEIM, California, Jan 10. (AP): Even though John Robinson is a longtime admirer of Joe Montana, his admiration may be getting slightly frayed around the edges.

Explaining why his team won't be blitzing much Sunday in the playoff game against the San Francisco 49ers, the Rams coach said: "I don't think you want to mess around with Joe too much."

Then Robinson muttered, shaking his head and laughing softly, "I'm sick and tired of him."

Montana has caused Robinson more than his share of headaches, dating back to when Robinson was the coach at the University of Southern California in the 1970s and Montana was the quarterback at Notre Dame.

"I remember the game where he completed something like 18 in a row against us and brought them from two touchdowns down to go ahead," Robinson said.

That was in 1977, and although Montana led the Irish to three touchdowns in the final quarter, he came up short for once. The Trojans won 27-25 on a late field goal.

The Rams take on the 49ers for the National Football Conference championship on Sunday. The victor will play the winner of the American Football Conference championship game between Cleveland and Denver in the NFL's Super Bowl championship game.

In seven years as the Rams coach, Robinson has seen several of the dramatic comebacks that have made Montana and the 49ers the National Football League's dominant team of the '80s.

He watched from the sidelines a month ago at Anaheim stadium as Montana rallied the 49ers from a 17-point deficit in the final quarter to a 30-27 victory over the Rams.

Should the Browns fail to make the Super Bowl this year, 24-year-old Michael Dean Perry is likely to get another chance somewhere down the line.

For a handful of his aging teammates, though, this may be the last gasp.

"You'd like to see those guys get to the Super Bowl, guys who have been with the organization a long time," said Perry, the only Cleveland player to make the all-pro team. "And people say I'll be around for a lot more years. That's true, but you might not get this kind of opportunity very often."

Perry, a second-year player, still feels the hurt along with Ozzie Newsome, Cody Risen, Carl Hairston and Clay Matthews.

"If I was denied two trips to the Super Bowl by the same team and now we have to play them a third time, there'd be a little revenge on my mind, a little payback," Perry said.

## Senna refused licence

PARIS, Jan 10. (Reuters): Former motor racing world champion Ayrton Senna of Brazil was today refused a licence to drive in the 1990 World Championship unless he withdraws allegations that last year's championship was manipulated to give Alain Prost of France the title.

The decision, made by the World Council of the International Automobile Federation (FIA), was announced by its president Jean-Marie Balestre at a news conference in Paris.

Balestre said Senna had refused, in a FIA hearing on the matter in Paris last month, to withdraw allegations to the press that officials from the International Motor Sports Federation (Fisa), including Balestre as a Frenchman, had favoured Prost to win the title.

Balestre said Senna had until February 15 to apply for his annual superlicence to drive in this season's Grand Prix.

He said that, unless he made a public statement retracting his allegations, Fisa would refuse to respond to his application.

Balestre added that Senna had violated a rule requiring every driver to respect the sporting code and the decisions of the sports authorities.

He said Senna had not been



Senna: asked to withdraw allegations

informed of the decision which was taken after he left the hearing on December 7.

He said the World Council had been shocked by the arrogant manner in which Senna conducted himself at the hearing.

Senna was fined \$100,000 and was given a six-month suspended

ban for dangerous driving following an incident with his McLaren team-mate Prost in last year's Japanese Grand Prix in Suzuka.

Senna won the race but was later disqualified and the decision effectively gave the Frenchman the world title.

## Krishnan and Gustafsson in last eight

AUCKLAND, New Zealand, Jan 10. (AP): Defending champion Ramesh Krishnan of India struggled past New Zealander Bruce Derlin 7-6 (9-7), 7-5 today, advancing to the quarterfinals of the \$175,000 Benson and Hedges New Zealand Open tennis championship.

Krishnan had to save two set points in the first set tiebreaker, which he eventually won. He then led 4-1 in the second set but allowed Derlin back to 4-4 before finally taking control.

"You only need to turn a few points the other way and it could have been 7-6, 7-5 for him," Krishnan said.

Derlin said he had not played aggressively enough in the second round match of the 32-draw tournament.

Third seeded Swede Magnus Gustafsson, fifth seeded Amos Mansdorf and eighth seeded Scott Davis of the United States all joined unseeded Krishnan in the last eight.

Gustafsson was in awesome form in beating Briton Jeremy Bates 6-2, 6-0 in just 51 minutes. From 1-2 in the first set, Gustafsson won 11 games straight to set up a quarter-final clash with Krishnan.

"I wanted to chip and charge and attack his second serve, but his second serve is harder than his first," Bates said. "I tried to keep the ball in play but he would hit a winner after three or four shots."

Davis had four match points in the second set against fellow American Dan Goldie, but was forced into a third set before finally winning 6-1, 6-7 (7-9), 6-2.

Mansdorf, the 1988 champion, beat Olivier Delaître of France 6-2, 7-5 in 74 minutes and will meet the winner of tomorrow's second round match between Americans Jimmy Arias and Glenn Layendecker.

Top seeded Andrei Chesnokov of the Soviet Union plays Richey Reneberg of the United States in another second round match slated for tomorrow.

The tournament continues through Sunday.

## McEnroe prepares for Open

ADELAIDE, Australia, Jan 10. (Reuters): John McEnroe, who once vowed never to play again in Australia, is making a big effort to prepare for next week's Australian Open despite dismissing it as less important than the other Grand Slam events.

The former enfant terrible of the tennis circuit commented on the first Grand Slam of the 1990s as he began his preparations at the four-day Rio International Challenge in Adelaide.

"I tried to get down here as early as I could to give myself the best chance," the American said.

"I feel like I'm as prepared as I have been, but it's always been a difficult tournament for me."

Last year, he won a rock star's welcome when he returned to the Australian Open for the first time since December 1985, when he had vowed never to play there again after clashes with the media and a shock defeat to Yugoslav Slobodan Zivojinovic.

McEnroe never hid his hatred of the cramped old Kooyong courts in Melbourne — the scene of his 1985 debacle — which he once described as "the worst grass court I have ever played on."

He was so incensed by the "skating rink" conditions that he won a 21-day suspension for one two-word outburst in 1985.

The move to Flinders Park changed all that and this year, despite insisting that the Open was "not as important as the other big tournaments," McEnroe said he was making a big effort to acclimatise to the Australian summer.

He guided the United States to the Hopman Cup final in Perth last week, only to lose to Spain, and has been travelling with wife Tatum O'Neal and young sons Kevin and Sean.

The world number four, who reached the quarterfinals last year and the semifinals on grass at Kooyong in 1983 — his best performance at the Open — said: "If conditions at Flinders Park are reasonable, my chances are good."

"It's tough, if you go out there and it's 140 degrees (Fahrenheit, 60 Centigrade) on the court, anything could happen."

But he added: "I couldn't play six or seven straight matches at the top of my game if it's hot."

McEnroe said the Open could boil down to the survival of the fittest, favouring world number one Ivan Lendl.

"It's sort of like a crap shoot (dice game). There's not that many guys that are at their best form-wise, but some guys could be very fit at this time... a guy like Lendl, he gets down here early and he's very fit," McEnroe said.



John McEnroe

## Israel may drop Mansdorf

TEL AVIV, Jan 10. (Reuters): The Israel Tennis Association (ITA) will consider today dropping Amos Mansdorf from the Israeli Davis Cup team over comments he made on Nazi Germany, a senior tennis official said.

Mansdorf, Israel's number one tennis star, touched a raw nerve this week by saying, in defence of playing in South Africa, that he would probably have played in Nazi Germany because he did not believe in mixing sport and politics.

Many Israelis lost relatives in the Nazi extermination of six million European Jews during World War Two.

Israeli politicians and newspapers lambasted the 24-year-old player for

his remarks at a news conference after anti-apartheid demonstrators disrupted his first round match in the New Zealand Open in Auckland on Monday.

Asked by a reporter if he would have played in Nazi Germany, Mansdorf said: "If I could have, I probably would. I wish I had the chance."

Pinhas Goldstein, a parliamentarian from Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's Likud Party, called for Mansdorf to be banned from the Davis Cup team as unworthy to represent Israel.

Leftist opposition parliamentarian Yossi Sarid said Mansdorf had "A brain the size of tennis ball and a mouth the size of a football."

## Tyson-Holyfield fight date set

NEW YORK, Jan 10. (AP): Mike Tyson will defend the heavyweight championship against Evander Holyfield in June 18, a spokesman for promoters Dan Duva said last night.

Kathy Duva, the promoter's wife who also serves as publicist, told the Associated Press by telephone that her husband and promoter Don King had reached agreement for the fight during a meeting in Las Vegas last night.

The financial split will be two-thirds for Tyson and one-third for Holyfield, Duva said.

## Sri Lanka manager defends De Silva

## PAM slams English tour of South Africa



Aravinda, backed by manager

ADELAIDE, Australia, Jan 10. (Reuters): Sri Lanka has blamed Tasmanian bowler Rod Tucker for provoking a scuffle with star batsman Aravinda de Silva during a tour game earlier this week.

Team manager Nissal Senarathne told reporters today no disciplinary action would be taken against De Silva and he had no intention of taking the issue further.

The Australian Cricket Board yesterday said De Silva had apologised and admitted a breach of the player's code of behaviour after Tasmanian captain Dirk Wellham complained.

"The incident was sparked off by Tucker making some unpleasant remarks, threatening physical harm at Aravinda and obstructing Aravinda who was proceeding to make his first run," Senarathne said.

"Tucker's remark that he would 'blow his head off' was a reaction to Aravinda stepping out to strike a glorious drive. Aravinda reiterated that he did not strike Tucker intentionally," he said.

The scuffle took place at Devonport Oval in Tasmania shortly after lunch on Monday when De Silva twice ran into Tucker and on one occasion appeared to strike the medium-pacer with his bat.

Tucker chased De Silva behind the wicket and engaged in some pushing and pulling with the diminutive Sri Lankan until

the umpires and Wellham intervened.

Aravinda expressed his concern and regrets for the confrontation in the "true spirit of the game," Senarathne said.

"I'm convinced Aravinda's intentions were sincere and his actions not intentional but the result of provocation, and therefore I do not intend to proceed further on this matter," he added.

The confrontation took place on the final day of a three-day match which was drawn.

The ACB earlier said it had no jurisdiction over De Silva and any punishment should be decided by Sri Lanka.

Sri Lanka starts a two-day match of 100 overs a side against the Australian Cricket Academy at Adelaide tomorrow.

In Johannesburg, a radical black anti-apartheid organisation yesterday condemned a planned cricket tour of South Africa and pledged to disrupt it, urging the English visitors to reconsider their plans or "face the wrath of Africa's sons and daughters."

Pan Africanist Movement general secretary Benny Alexander refused to disclose to a news conference what methods would be used to try and end the tour.

The PAM would not seek permission from the courts to hold demonstrations, as required under South African law, Alexander said.

"We call on the English cricketers to reconsider their plans or to come and face the wrath of Africa's sons and daughters. Our oppression is not an intellectual issue, it is our life and death, the whole existence of an entire people," he said.

Asked if the protests would involve violence, Alexander said, "we are going to halt this tour... we will go beyond mere protestations. Our objective is to bring an end to the tour and we are prepared to pay the consequences for realizing that objective."

Led by former England captain Mike Gatting, a team of top English players arrives later this month to contest two five-day and five limited-over matches against the South African national side.

Two black players have already withdrawn from the English team under pressure from anti-apartheid activists. Gatting has repeatedly dismissed efforts by South African activists to cancel the tour.

South Africa has officially been barred from international cricket since the 1970's, although rebel tours by several sides have taken place.

Ignoring anti-apartheid demonstrations and appeals from the British, Australian and Irish governments, a multinational rugby team toured the country in August last year to celebrate the centenary of the South African Rugby Board.



## Gower escapes death

LONDON, Jan 10. (Reuters): Former English cricket captain David Gower narrowly escaped death by leaping from his car just before it plunged into a frozen Swiss lake, the Daily Mirror said today.

Gower, 32, had driven the hired car on to the frozen surface of Lake St Moritz following other tyre tracks and thinking it was safe on his way home from dinner with friends, it said.

"I was looking for the bank and the way back on to the road when I thought, my God, that's water, not ice and snow in front of me... the next thing I knew, there was the almighty sound of cracking ice," the paper quoted him as saying.

"Luckily I got the door open and was immediately in freezing water... when I got back with some helpers, the car had sunk without trace."

Gower said he was so shaken he went to a church to say a prayer of thanks.



## SPORTS BRIEFS

## Le Mans race

PARIS, Jan. 10, (Reuters): The chances of this year's Le Mans 24-hours sports car race going ahead receded today when the sport's governing body set a new condition on resuming talks on the event's future, Jean-Marie Balestre, president of the International Motor Sports Federation (FISA), told a news conference there would be no more negotiations with Le Mans organisers until they apologised publicly for what he called a campaign for defamation against FISA.

## Broncos tackle

DENVER, Jan. 10, (AP): Prosecutors plan to seek formal conviction and sentencing of Denver Broncos tackle Gerald Perry for soliciting prostitution in Denver, because he violated a plea-bargain agreement by being arrested in Aurora.

## Girardelli out

SCHLADMING, Austria, Jan. 10, (AP): World Cup overall title holder Mario Girardelli is out of racing until February to nurse injuries he suffered last month, his doctors said today.

## Top golfer

PALM BEACH GARDENS, Florida, Jan. 10, (AP): Tom Watson, who won 18 PGA Tour tournaments in the 1980s, was named Golfer of the Decade yesterday by the Professional Golfers Association of America.

## Overall lead

PARIS, Jan. 10, (Reuters): Twice winner Ari Vatanen of Finland shone again on the 11th stage of the Paris-Dakar Rally across 431 kms of winding desert tracks from Tahoua in Niger to Niamey yesterday. Vatanen, Peugeot's top driver, scored his seventh stage win so far in the 18-stage event, strengthening his overall lead over his three teammates.

## Italian Cup

ROME, Jan. 10, (Reuters): Results in the third round of the Italian Soccer Cup today:

Ascoli	Group A	1
Napoli	Group B	0
Milan	Group C	0

## BRIDGE

RESULTS of the Messilah Ladies Bridge Club game held on Monday:

1. Nahl Akel & Lollo Murthwaite
2. Jamila Akel & Nuhla Khalaf
3. Khala Hour & Naela Kassim

Results of the Regency Ladies Bridge Club game played yesterday morning:

1. Nahl Akel & Lollo Murthwaite
2. Margaret Maynard & Suzanne Gattermole

Sharing third: Jamila Akel & Joan Hashim and Khala Hour & Naela Kassim.

Results of Sheraton Bridge game played on Tuesday:

1. Farahs
2. Mrs Dona Materny & Dr Adel Shah & Merchant

E/W

1. Salman & Laila
2. M Sabri & Oskay
3. Simon & Mukherjee

## Careca out for one month

## Liverpool crush Swansea

LIVERPOOL, England, Jan. 10, (AP): Ian Rush scored three goals and John Barnes added two as defending champion Liverpool crushed tiny Swansea 8-0 last night in a replay of their third-round English Football Association Cup game.

Third-Division Swansea had held the Reds to a scoreless tie in their FA Cup soccer match Saturday in Wales, forcing the replay at Anfield.

Swansea goalie Lee Bracey held Liverpool scoreless for the first 21 minutes of yesterday's contest, extending his goalless streak against the Reds to 111 minutes. But then Liverpool exploded.

Barnes scored off a Steve Staunton pass to start the rout and Ronnie Whelan added the second goal in the 40th minute before Barnes made it 3-0 two minutes before intermission.

Liverpool, who scored nine goals against Crystal Palace in a Division One League game earlier this season, kept up the scoring in the second half. Rush scored the fourth in the 52nd minute and Peter Beardsley made it 5-0 seconds later.

Rush scored in the 77th and 83rd minutes and Steve Nicol



Rush (left) got three while Barnes scored two.



bridge rallied for a 3-1 victory at non-League team Darlington and First-Division rival Millwall and Manchester City played to a

1-1 overtime tie.

Darlington, playing in front of its biggest home crowd in three years, dominated the first half and held a 1-0 lead on a goal in the 29th minute by Les McJanett.

But Cambridge got goals by John Taylor and Lee Philpott in a two-minute span early in the second half and Adion Dublin added a header in the final minutes to eliminate the non-League team.

At Millwall, Jimmy Carter gave the hosts the lead in the 16th minute but Colin Hendry tied the score with 10 minutes remaining. The teams failed to score in overtime and will play again Monday at Millwall.

Striker Lee Chapman signed for English Second Division soccer leaders Leeds United yesterday in a £400,000 (\$600,000) transfer from First Division Nottingham Forest.

Chapman, 30, who signed a three and a half year contract, rejoins Leeds manager Howard Wilkinson, under whom he served at Sheffield Wednesday. The striker's six previous clubs include League champions Arsenal.

The deal brings to more than

£3.5 million (\$5.8 million) Wilkinson's spending in the last 16 months.

## Results

English Football Association (FA) Cup third round replays

Darlington 1 Cambridge United 3 (Cambridge United away to Millwall or Manchester City)

Liverpool 8 Swansea 0 (Liverpool away to Exeter or Norwich)

Millwall 1 Manchester City 1

Scottish Premier Division

Motherwell 0 Hibernian 2

Barnley 3 Scarborough 0

Scottish Division One

Albion 0 Hamilton 0

Partick 0 Morton 2

Scottish Division Two

Sunhousen 1 Berwick 3

Brazilian striker Careca

injured his foot in training with Italian League leaders Napoli

yesterday and will be out of action for a month, the club said.

Careca, a key figure in Brazil's expected 1990 World Cup side, splintered a small bone in his right foot when he collided with club mate and compatriot Alemão.

His injury is bad news for Napoli, whose two-point lead in the First Division has looked shaky following their first

League defeat of the season on December 30 and an unimpressive 1-0 win against lowly Ascoli last Sunday.

Kuwaiti triumphs

ISLAMABAD, Jan. 10, (Kuna): Kuwait scored its first victory in the KESC International Boxing Championships at KGA Gymnasium in Karachi last night through its boxer Nasir Ali Qazmadi.

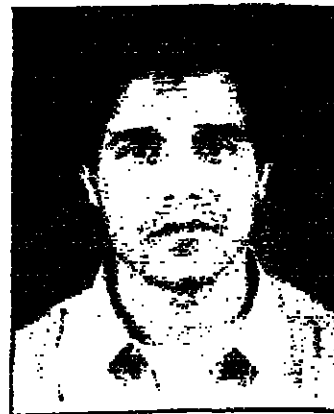
According to results of second day's bouts in the first Karachi Electric Supply Corporation International Boxing Championships available today, Qazmadi beat Pakistan Navy's pugilist Intizar Ali.

One of the most interesting bouts was between Pakistan's Olympic bronze medalist Hussain Shah and Indonesia's Bahari Pono in the middle weight category in which the latter gave tough time before going

down to his Pakistani opponent.



Mustafa Iqbal



Arshad Mehmood

## Lucky Star and TCC score easy victories

LUCKY Star Cricket Club beat New Star by six wickets in a Farwaniya Knockout Tournament first-round match at the Farwaniya ground earlier this week.

After winning the toss, New Star captain Tariq opted to bat but the whole team was out for only 94 runs. Zahid was the top scorer with 27 while Nafis got 21.

For Lucky Stars, Mustafa Iqbal was the most successful bowler with six for 15 while Tahir got two for 26 while Mir Ifkhar and Imtiaz got one wicket each.

Lucky Stars opened their

innings through Arshad Mehmood and Atiq but the latter was out for only seven. Tahir Mehmood and Arshad Mehmood then started taking the New Star bowlers to task. Tahir was out for 25 but Arshad went on to score 49 as he took his team to victory. Anwar Khan chipped in with 20 as his team went past the victory target in the 12th over.

The newly formed Trishul Cricket Club (TCC), playing their first match, defeated Pakistan Central Cricket Club (PCCC) by 31 runs in a match played at the Farwaniya grounds earlier this week.

Batting first, TCC scored 190 runs for the loss of four wickets in the allotted 25 overs. The highlight of their innings was a classic 94 by the opening batsman Rony with the help of 3 mighty sixes and 10 boundaries. He was 1bw

out on the third delivery of the 25th over. He was ably supported by Rudy and skipper Francis who scored 31 and 34 not out respectively. For PCCC, Sadik took 2 wickets and Shakoor one.

PCCC opened their innings through Jamil and Tahir. Jamil was the first to go when he was run out for 3. Tahir was caught in the gully for six. Wickets then kept falling at regular intervals, keeping the scores below the required run-rate mainly due to some accurate bowling and fine fielding by TCC.

Finally PCCC mustered only 159 for 9 wickets in 25 overs. For TCC, Francis claimed 2 wickets while Walter Derrick and Paul took one each. There were four run outs.

Rony hit 94

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## Ahmadi retain golf trophy

AHMADI Golf Club won the second leg of the annual inter-club competition which it hosted last Friday in Ahmadi, by beating the Hunting and Equestrian Golf Club by 13 matches to 8 with 3 drawn. Although, H&E had won the first leg of this event held in October by 9 matches to 7. Ahmadi finished overall winners on aggregate of 20 matches to 17 and retained the trophy for another year.

In a Scotch-foursome competition held at the Hunting and Equestrian Golf Club in the new year Samir Baluja and Subail Gidwani played superb golf to secure first place on a comeback from HS Nam and SD So when both teams scored 65. The due of KK Lee and SW Choi carded 66 to take third place. Other scores were: G. Thuene and D Brero—

69. KJ Lee and YY Jin—69.

In side competition G Gaston had the longest drive for men on the par-4 sixth and Saud Hajri won the nearest to the pin contest on the par-3 fifth. Mrs In Suk Lee won her first ever golf trophy when she produced the longest drive of the day in the ladies competition.

The Hunting and Equestrian Golf Club will hold the annual Kuwait Stableford Golf Championship on Thursday 11 and Friday 12 January.

This event is sponsored by Toyo Tyre Company of Japan through their local agents Abdulla Hadi Al-Mailem Company.

This event has attracted 90 local golfers from three local clubs.

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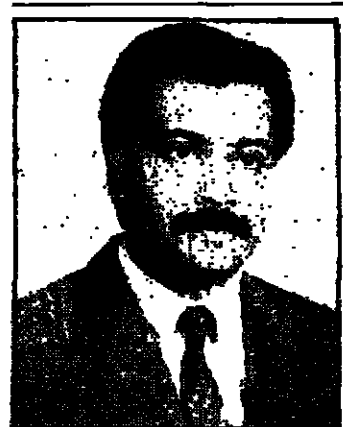
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Gidwani: came first

## Qadir may miss Test

BRISBANE, Australia, Jan. 10, (Reuters): Pakistan's injured frontline spinner Abdul Qadir may be replaced by 19-year-old Mushtaq Ahmed in the first Test against Australia on Friday at Melbourne.

Pakistan manager Intikhab Alam told reporters today that Ahmed, with 12 one-day internationals to his credit, would make his Test debut the day after a long flight from Pakistan to Melbourne.

He said Qadir's right hand was bruised and he doubted the spinner would be fit to play.

Skipper Imran Khan, however, said Qadir would probably miss the Test even if he recovered as he was off form.

"There is a good chance that Qadir could be left out of the Test side on his form," he said.

Pakistan's four-day match against Queensland ended in a draw yesterday.

## Edberg wins

ADELAIDE, Australia, Jan. 10, (AP): Masters champion Stefan Edberg of Sweden breezed to a 6-1, 6-3 victory over Australian Darren Cahill today in the first match of the Rio Challenge Exhibition Tennis Tournament at Memorial Drive in Adelaide.

Frenchman Henri Leconte, Americans John McEnroe and Jim Courier and in-form Australian Thomas Muster also are in the line-up for the exhibition.

McEnroe also scored a quick-fire win in his tournament opener, downing Leconte 6-0, 6-2.

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